

Hartford Courant



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Trooper charged with manslaughter

Connecticut State Police officer accused in deadly shooting of Mubarak Soulemane in 2020



Omo Klusum Mohammed, mother of Mubarak Soulemane, holds a photo of her slain son May 20, 2020. **COURANT FILE PHOTOS**

‘Let this arrest set an example,’ civil rights attorney says

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

The state trooper who investigators say fatally shot a 19-year-old driver after a high-speed chase into West Haven two years ago has been arrested on a manslaughter charge.

Trooper Brian D. North was charged with first-degree manslaughter with a firearm, Inspector General Robert J. Devlin Jr. said Wednesday. He turned himself in at the Troop I barracks in Bethany about 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and posted a \$50,000 bond.

Mubarak Soulemane, 19, was fatally shot at the end of a high-speed chase in a stolen car on Jan. 15, 2020. Footage from the scene shows troopers and a West Haven police officer descend on the car after it was stopped off Exit 43 of Interstate 95 North and blocked by police cars.

A video of the shooting shows North firing into the car after the trooper allegedly saw Soulemane with a knife.

In his report, Devlin concludes that neither North nor two other officers outside the car were in imminent danger of having deadly force used against them. He added that due to the police car blocking his door, Soulemane would not have been able to get out.

“Although [Soulemane] held a knife in his right hand, he was not using the knife against them nor presenting any imminent threat to do so,” he wrote.

The state police union extended condolences to Soulemane’s family in a statement on Wednesday, saying, “No Connecticut state trooper ever intends to or has the desire to take the life of another human

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Mariyann Soulemane, the sister of Mubarak Soulemane, appears May 11, 2021, with attorneys Sanford Rubenstein, left, and Mark Arons and the Rev. Kevin McCall, back.

Report: Use of deadly force ‘not justified’

By Taylor Hartz
Hartford Courant

At 5:04 p.m. Jan. 15, 2020, a 19-year-old veered the car he’d stolen from his Lyft driver off Interstate 95 North in West Haven. He crashed into an SUV under an overpass after flying down the highway at more than 100 mph with state troopers on his tail.

By 5:05 p.m., a report of “shots fired” rang over the police radio.

Less than a minute passed between the time that Mubarak Soulemane, a Black man from New Haven, took the exit and the moment his body, still seated in the boxed-in car, was shot seven times by a white state police trooper.

Soulemane was pronounced dead 58 minutes later.

Now, the trooper who shot him could face up to 20

Turn to Force, Page 3

Supreme Court finds loophole in state gun law

Some out-of-state drug offenders can get handgun permits from Connecticut

By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

The state Supreme Court has ruled that an out-of-state drug conviction can’t prevent someone from obtaining a pistol permit in Connecticut.

The court released the decision Wednesday in the case of a Stratford man who had been denied a permit based on a misdemeanor drug conviction years earlier in New York.

Had the applicant for the permit been convicted of a similar, non-felony crime in Connecticut, the permit would have been denied under state law establishing fitness requirements for gun owners. But the court said that because the General Assembly did not include convictions for equivalent, out-of-state crimes as disqualifiers for obtaining permits, the pistol permit application was wrongly denied.

Legislators were talking about plugging the apparent loophole in the law hours after the court published the decision.

“My initial quick browse through this suggests there is an oversight in the statute,” said state Rep. Steven Stafstrom, a Bridgeport Democrat and co-chairman of the General Assembly’s judi-

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WAR IN UKRAINE

Russian forces step up attack on Mariupol

Moscow reports ICBM test, mounts attacks in east region

By Adam Schreck
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian forces tightened the noose around the defenders holed up Wednesday in a mammoth steel plant that represented the last known Ukrainian stronghold in Mariupol, as a fighter apparently on the inside warned in a video plea for help: “We may have only a few days or hours left.”

With the holdouts coming under punishing new bombing attacks, another attempt to evacuate civilians trapped in the pulverized port city failed because of continued fighting.

Meanwhile, the number of people fleeing the country topped 5 million, the Kremlin said it submitted a draft of its demands for ending the war, and the West raced to supply Ukraine with heavier weapons to counter the Russians’ new drive to seize the industrial east.

With global tensions running high, Russia reported the first successful test launch of a new type of intercontinental

Turn to Ukraine, Page 2

Lawmakers tout fair rent commissions in larger communities

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — At a time of rising rents, Connecticut legislators were debating Wednesday night on mandating fair rent commissions for all communities with more than 25,000 residents.

Currently, the commissions are voluntary, and 24 municipalities statewide already

have them, legislators said. The total under the bill would be expanded to 45 communities.

Democrats said the mandatory commissions are needed now to help renters around the state at a time when many rents are increasing as the coronavirus pandemic continues.

The commissions would have the power to investigate complaints about rents,

convene public hearings, issue subpoenas to force people to appear, and eventually force landlords to lower rents under certain circumstances. The commissions can be created in each municipality through action by the local city council or board of selectmen by July 1, 2023.

The debate was continuing past 9:15 p.m., but a vote was expected in the following hours.

Rep. Quentin Williams, a Middletown Democrat who co-chairs the legislature’s housing committee, said the bill strikes a balance of helping renters and providing protections for small landlords as some rents are increasing faster than inflation.

Without a commission, Williams said, “Right now, their only option would be to

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Breeze Airways sets nonstop destination from Bradley

Breeze Airways will launch nonstop service from Bradley International Airport to Las Vegas beginning Sept. 7 and will operate Wednesday and Saturday. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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Loophole

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ciary committee. “We need to make it clear that the local police chief has the authority to deny the permit based on a conviction under Connecticut law or a comparable provision of another state’s law.”

In a unanimous opinion written by Justice Andrew J. McDonald, the court said that the legislature enacted a law with about dozen factors disqualifying an applicant from gun ownership. Since a misdemeanor drug conviction

in another state is not among them, the court said it must conclude lawmakers did not intend for it to be a bar to gun ownership.

“In light of the fact that the legislature has previously used explicit language in other Connecticut statutes to incorporate equivalent out-of-state convictions, we conclude that the absence of such language ... indicates that the legislature intended only for the enumerated Connecticut offenses to operate as a ... bar to obtaining a state pistol permit,” the court said.

“We cannot say with

certainty why the legislature chose not to include an equivalency provision in that statute, but what we can say with certainty is that the policy decision to incorporate such an equivalency provision rests with that branch of government, not this one.”

The court based the decision on a state law requiring that laws be interpreted on the plain meaning of the text. The court effectively told the legislature that if it wants out-of-state, non-felony convictions to block the issuance of permits, it must write laws that say so explicitly.

Out-of-state felony convictions already are a bar to permitting under the law.

Anthony Leo of Stratford applied to the local police department for a handgun permit about six years ago. The Stratford Police Department denied the application based on his conviction 10 years before that in New York for illegal possession of ketamine, an anesthetic and anti-depressant that is often abused.

The police department said that although the New York crime was not a specific bar to handgun licensing in Connecticut, it was the

equivalent of a Connecticut offense that is.

Leo appealed to the state Board of Firearms Permit Examiners, which reversed the police department and granted the permit. The Stratford police appealed to the Superior Court, which reversed again, denying the permit on the grounds that the New York crime was the equivalent of a Connecticut offense that is an automatic disqualifier under state law.

The Superior Court also criticized the firearms board for its failure to consider “factors” such as the danger posed by providing pistol

permits to persons known to abuse controlled substances, and the way it distinguished between similar drug crimes in Connecticut and New York.

Leo appealed again and the Supreme Court agreed to take the case.

In ruling for Leo, the court said the legislature should have said specifically that out-of-state offenses equivalent to Connecticut crimes are disqualifying conduct, just as it has for the issuance of other sorts of licenses, including those for drivers, childcare providers and bail bondsmen.

Ukraine

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ballistic missile, the Sarmat. President Vladimir Putin boasted it can overcome any missile defense system and make those who threaten Russia “think twice,” and the head of the Russian state aerospace agency called the launch out of northern Russia “a present to NATO.”

The Pentagon described the test as “routine” and said it wasn’t considered a threat.

On the battlefield, Ukraine said Moscow continued to mount assaults across the east, probing for weak points in Ukrainian defensive lines. Russia said it launched hundreds of missile and air attacks on targets that included concentrations of troops and vehicles.

The Kremlin’s stated goal is the capture of the Donbas, the mostly Russian-speaking eastern region that is home to coal mines, metal plants and heavy-equipment factories. Detaching it would give Putin a badly needed victory two months into the war, after the botched attempt to storm the capital, Kyiv.

Analysts say the offensive in the east could devolve into a war of attrition as Russia runs up against Ukraine’s most experienced, battle-hardened troops, who have been fighting pro-Moscow separatists in the Donbas for the past eight years.

Russia said it presented



A woman stands in front of her destroyed home on Wednesday in Moshchun, northwest of Kyiv. GENYA SAVILOV/GETTY-AFP

Ukraine with a draft document outlining its demands for ending the conflict days after Putin said the talks were at a “dead end.”

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said that “the ball is in their court, we’re waiting for a response.” He gave no details on the draft, and it was not clear when it was sent or if it offered anything new to the Ukrainians, who presented their own demands last month.

Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he had not seen or heard of the proposal, though one of his top advisers said the Ukrainian side was reviewing it.

Moscow has long demanded Ukraine drop any bid to join NATO. Ukraine has said it would agree to that in return for security guarantees from a number of other countries. Other sources of tension include the status of both the Crimean Peninsula,

seized by Moscow in 2014, and eastern Ukraine, where the separatists have declared independent republics recognized by Russia.

In devastated Mariupol, Ukraine said the Russians dropped heavy bombs to flatten what was left of the sprawling Azvostal steel plant, believed to be the last pocket of resistance in the city.

A few thousand Ukrainian troops, by the Russians’ estimate, remain in the plant

and its labyrinth of tunnels and bunkers spread out across about 4 square miles. Zelenskyy said about 1,000 civilians are also trapped there.

A Ukrainian posted a video plea on Facebook urging world leaders to help evacuate people from the plant, saying, “We have more than 500 wounded soldiers and hundreds of civilians with us, including women and children.”

The officer, who identified

himself as Serhiy Volynskyy of the 36th Marine Brigade, said: “This may be our last appeal. We may have only a few days or hours left.” The authenticity of the video could not be independently verified.

The Russian side issued a new ultimatum to the defenders to surrender, but the Ukrainians have ignored all previous demands.

All told, more than 100,000 people were believed trapped with little if any food, water, medicine or heat in Mariupol, which had a prewar population of over 400,000.

Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said the latest effort to open a safe corridor for women, children and the elderly to escape failed because the Russians did not observe a cease-fire. Many previous such agreements have fallen apart because there was no halt in the fighting.

As Russia sent more troops and equipment into the Donbas, Western nations rushed to boost the flow of military supplies to Kyiv for this new phase of the war, which is likely to involve long-range artillery attacks and tank battles across relatively open terrain.

President Joe Biden is expected to announce a new weapons package in the coming days that will include additional artillery, and Canada and the Netherlands also said they would send more heavy weaponry.

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CASH 5

4 5 15 22 31

LUCKY FOR LIFE

1 26 38 41 42 LB: 11

LOTTO

7 9 16 29 36 40

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2 9 33 47 53 MB: 24 MP: 3

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4/22 Suzzy Roche & Lucy Wainwright Roche

From a dazzling musical family, Suzzy Roche and Lucy Wainwright Roche have shared a life on the road. Their show is a fun filled evening of smart, thoughtful, songs with plenty of familial harmonies.

4/23 Frames in Film: Vincent Van Gogh

Delving deep into his fascinating and sometimes deeply troubled world comes this definitive, award-winning documentary by David Bickerstaff.

4/23 Will Evans (of Barefoot Truth)

Showcasing his skills as a multi-instrumentalist, Evans displays technical mastery of live-looping in his shows that include the didgeridoo, steel drums, percussive beatboxing, acoustic guitar, and layers of soulful vocals.

4/24 The Yale Whiffenpoofs

America's Oldest Collegiate A Cappella Group takes center stage at teh Kate. Singing a mixture of old Yale tunes, jazz standards, and other hits from across the decades.

4/27 Parsonsfield

With roots in Connecticut, this multi-genre group began making music in 2011. with an alternative/indie sound, often crossing into folk, Parsonsfield has always taken an experimental approach to thier music making.

4/28 The Silos w/ Walter Salas-Humara

Heralded at their outset by Rolling Stone as "America's Best New Band" back in the 80's, the resilient Silos mix punk, roots, rock, and sage art-damaged truth telling.

4/29 The Linda Ronstadt Experience

The Premier Touring Tribute showcasing the songs that Linda Ronstadt made famous.

4/30 Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters

Legendary Blues guitarist RONNIE EARL is a four-time Blues Music Award winner as Guitar Player of the Year,



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Charges

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being.”

The state police union added that it is disappointed with Devlin’s decision to prosecute North, who union leaders said was “forced to make a split-second decision during these dangerous and rapidly evolving circumstances.” The union also disagreed about the level of danger.

“Mr. Soulemane produced a knife as police officers were attempting to enter the stolen vehicle to take him into custody. Trooper North instructed another Trooper to switch from his firearm to his taser, in an attempt to use less than lethal force to effect the arrest. Tragically, due to Mr. Soulemane’s sudden movements, Trooper North was forced to discharge his duty weapon to defend the other officers who were attempting to enter the stolen vehicle to effect an arrest.

“Trooper North was forced to do exactly what he was trained to do under these circumstances when he used deadly force to protect the lives of another Trooper and a West Haven police officer,” the union said in its statement.

Summer of charge

The shooting came amid a year of racial reckoning over police violence against people of color.

As part of police reforms in Connecticut following the death of George Floyd and calls to defund the police, Devlin, a former judge, was appointed as inspector general to investigate every use of force case and death involving police or correction officers.

Soulemane’s family had called for an independent investigation and for the trooper’s arrest after the shooting. They said he was a community college student who had schizophrenia.

Mark Arons, a lawyer for the family, said there was a cloud over the family’s head since the shooting, and they look forward to Trooper North being convicted.

“The family of Mubarak Soulemane is very happy that, after two-plus years, Trooper Brian North, who murdered Mubarak in West Haven in January 2020, may be brought to justice. It’s a long road ahead. But this is a good day,” Arons said in a previously released statement.

“It’s been two years of agony for the family,” Arons

added by phone Wednesday, noting the number of rallies, vigils and press conferences that took place after the shooting.

“Now there’s a path to justice.”

The NAACP and other groups joined the family in protesting the shooting. At a memorial service for Soulemane days after his death, the Rev. Al Sharpton said something about the killing didn’t “smell right” and he vowed to fight for answers for the family.

The Rev. Kevin McCall, a civil rights leader in greater New York and adviser to the Soulemane family, said police need more training in handling people with such illnesses.

“They should be trained in how to handle mental health,” he said.

McCall added that he was with family members when they heard the trooper would be charged.

“When we heard yesterday that the officer was, in fact, going to get arrested, I was full of joy, along with the family. The mother, she broke into tears. And she said ‘Thank you, God.’ To hear that an officer was going to get arrested is definitely in the direction of justice that they have been waiting for,” McCall said.

The head of Connecticut’s NAACP, Scot X. Esdaile, said he was pleasantly surprised to hear about the arrest.

“I was shocked to be honest with you, in the very beginning, because so many times we’ve been through these situations, and we’ve been disappointed,” Esdaile said.

“Let this arrest set an example to police all over the country, that if you use deadly force without justification, you will be charged criminally,” said civil rights attorney Sanford Rubenstein, who has worked on more than 20 police brutality cases in New York, including the 2014 killing of Eric Garner.

‘Test of the criminal justice system’

Gov. Ned Lamont said he had not met with Soulemane’s family and added that he trusts the judicial system to provide an independent outcome for Soulemane and North.

“That’s why we have an inspector general,” Lamont told reporters Wednesday after an unrelated event in Newington. “Independent. Police aren’t investigating police. Give people confi-

dence that we’re holding people accountable. That’s what that arrest, I think, means. Now, let justice take its course.”

Asked what he would say to the Soulemane family, Lamont said, “My heart goes out to the family. But let’s see now exactly where justice leads us. It will be in the courts now. But I mourn their loss.”

New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker called Soulemane’s death a tragedy in a statement released Wednesday.

“I have watched the video of the incident many times which leads so many of us to believe that the trooper’s actions were unjustified. This is now reinforced by the charges brought by the Inspector General,” he said in the statement. “Law enforcement officers are committed to keeping our community safe and we are grateful for the work they do on behalf our community. And it is critical that all our law enforcement officers are held to a high standard. The state trooper’s arrest, and the due process that will follow, will help ensure that there is accountability for Mubarak’s death and that justice will be served on his behalf and for his family.”

Claudine Constant, public policy and advocacy direc-

tor of the ACLU of Connecticut, believes that even with a conviction, justice can never be achieved in this case.

“Mubarak Soulemane should still be alive today,” Constant said. “Justice would be police never killing Mubarak Soulemane in the first place and no one ever dying at the hands of police again, but today’s announcement is a welcome step toward individual accountability for Brian North.”

Esdaile said he expects the court process to be “grueling.”

“This will be a test of the criminal justice system,” Esdaile said.

North is on paid administrative leave, and his police powers have been suspended, pending criminal proceedings, state police said.

He is expected to be arraigned in Superior Court in Milford on May 3. First-degree manslaughter with a firearm is a Class B felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison and \$15,000 in fines.

Courant staff writer Christopher Keating contributed to this report.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Force

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years in prison if convicted on the charge of first-degree manslaughter with a firearm.

More than two years after Soulemane was fatally shot in the chest, state trooper Brian D. North turned himself in on a warrant Tuesday following an extensive investigation by the Office of the Inspector General that found that North’s use of deadly force was unjustified.

The Office of Inspector General assumed responsibility for the investigation on Nov. 3, 2021. On Wednesday, the details of Inspector General Robert J. Devlin Jr.’s investigation were released in a 133-page report. It included body camera and dashboard camera footage from North and other state troopers, witness statements, surveillance footage from the AT&T store and a Shell gas station and an autopsy report among other evidence.

At the time of the shooting, Soulemane was armed with a kitchen knife he’d taken from his girlfriend’s house, it stated in the report. According to the report, troopers said the knife was tightly gripped in his fist as he sat inside the stolen car with the doors locked and the windows rolled up. He led police on the high-speed chase after trying to steal an iPhone from an AT&T store, slapping his Lyft driver and stealing the driver’s white 2012 Hyun-

dai Sonata, according to an arrest warrant and the report issued by Devlin.

Soulemane had been reported missing by his family that same morning, according to the report. The family told police he has been diagnosed with schizophrenia at age 14. Loved ones said he was acting erratic and paranoid and likely wasn’t taking his medication, according to the report.

Police in New Haven made contact with Soulemane over the phone around 8:15 a.m., according to the report. His older brother told police they had gotten into a fight and he left their Blatchley Avenue apartment. His mother, Omo Mohammed, was out of the country and was worried about him.

Ten hours later, multiple police cruisers surrounded him under a highway overpass. The Sonata he stole was smashed in on the passenger side, dented and scraped on the driver side. Multiple police cars blocked the car in, according to the report, one was pushed up against the driver’s side, preventing the door from opening.

According to statements in the report from police on the scene and body camera footage, Troop G trooper Joshua Jackson commanded Soulemane to get out of the car multiple times.

North said in his statement that Soulemane was refusing to comply with the command to get out of the car and appeared “out of it.” He was sitting back in the reclined driver’s seat with his hands in his lap and his

eyes closed, according to a report by North.

With at least one firearm and a Taser aimed on Soulemane, West Haven police officer Robert Rappa smashed the passenger side window with a baton. The window shattered loudly, glass spilling into the car and onto the road, body camera footage shows. According to the report and body camera footage, North called to Jackson to switch to his Taser.

According to North’s report after the shooting, Soulemane was “startled” when the window smashed.

“As soon as the window shattered, I saw the suspect’s eyes open wide,” North recalled, according to the report. He saw him sit up straighter in the driver’s seat. Then, he said Soulemane “quickly moved his right hand and went straight for his right front pants pocket.”

“I felt my field of vision narrow, focusing on watching the suspect’s hands. Immediately the suspect, using his right hand, removed a silver-colored object from his right pants pocket,” North reported.

North said he shouted a warning about the knife. Jackson then deployed his Taser.

According to the report, North stated he heard someone yell out, “He’s reaching. He’s reaching.” North then stated, “I immediately became concerned for the safety of both the West Haven officer and Trooper Jackson.”

“As a result, I discharged my duty firearm to elimi-

nate the threat.” North said according to the report.

Thirty six seconds passed between the time that North positioned himself near the driver’s side of the crashed car and the time he pulled the trigger.

An autopsy performed by the Connecticut Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, found that Soulemane died from four gunshot wounds to his chest. He was shot seven times, the report said. The medical examiner retrieved three bullets from his body, the other three were found at the scene.

In his statements to investigators, Jackson said that he thought he was in imminent danger. Soulemane had a knife in his fist and his gaze was fixed on him, he said according to the report.

According to state statute, a police officer is justified in using deadly physical force on another person when the officer believes such force is needed to protect themselves or another person from deadly force.

Devlin’s investigation found that North could not have reasonably believed that Rappa or Jackson faced an immediate threat to their lives.

Devlin found that North never claimed he used deadly force to defend himself — they described how the position of one of the police cruisers would have fully blocked Soulemane from getting out of the car.

The investigation also found that even though Soulemane was holding a knife, he didn’t pose

an immediate dangerous threat to Rappa or Jackson. The trooper and officer were outside, Soulemane was inside, and all the car’s doors and windows were closed, it states in the report.

North, in his statement, claimed that he thought Rappa or Jackson was going to reach into the vehicle to pull Soulemane out. He said he was worried that if they did, Soulemane would use the knife on them.

“A reasonable police officer would know that officers would not put themselves in such a vulnerable position,” the report states. And if they weren’t reaching in, they wouldn’t need protection from the knife, the report notes.

No reasonable officer, the report says, would have expected a colleague to do what North says he thought Rappa and Jackson were doing. On the off chance that they did, the report states, they would have told others on the scene what they were doing.

“It stretches credulity to accept that Rappa would put himself in such a perilous position and not yell out: ‘I’m going in,’ or similar statement or that Jackson would not alert North of the impending car entry,” Devlin wrote.

The report also noted that when North was first questioned about his use of deadly force, he said he shot at Soulemane because he saw the knife.

If that had been his reasoning, Devlin said, the shooting wouldn’t have

been justified.

“If North fired only because he saw Soulemane pull the knife, without more, the shooting would not be justified. In such circumstances, the shooting would not be defensive,” he said in the report.

Devlin’s report called out the “inconsistency” in statements given by North, which he said brought up reason to question whether North’s official statements “reflects his actual belief at the time of the shooting.”

The report also critiques North for not trying to de-escalate the situation before using deadly force.

“Only thirty six seconds elapsed between North taking a position next to the driver window and his firing his gun through that window,” wrote Devlin. “Would a reasonable officer have made further attempts to talk to Soulemane either himself or possibly waiting until an officer with crisis intervention training could respond?” he questioned in the report.

Devlin also said that the number of shots North fired was unreasonable. One shot, he said, could have “disabled” Soulemane.

Devlin acknowledged that when investigating an officer’s use of deadly force, investigators should take into account the split-second decisions officers are faced with. They should also consider whether the actions they do take are reasonable.

“In the present case, that standard of reasonableness was not met,” Devlin said.

Rent

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move.”

Rep. Joe Polletta, the ranking House Republican on the housing committee, said during the floor debate that the measure is “an unfunded mandate” that would generate extra expenses for towns.

The commissions will need to gather a large amount of information before deciding whether the rent meets the standard of “harsh and unconscionable” when compared to similar properties, according to legislators.

“Harsh and unconscionable can be misconstrued

in many ways” and provide a hardship for landlords, said Polletta, a Watertown Republican. “This bill just doesn’t get us to where we are supposed to be. ... The landlords across Connecticut have been hit with rising fuel costs and rising property taxes. ... Landlords are business owners, and we are targeting them unfairly in this bill.”

Rep. Laura Devlin, a Fairfield Republican who is running for lieutenant governor, opposed the bill by saying there is “absolutely no funding” for the commissions at a time when 500-square-foot apartments in her hometown can cost \$2,000 per month.

The key factors on a list

of 13 reasons for making decisions include rents for similar apartments, the frequency of the rent increases, the size of the apartment and number of bathrooms, the repairs needed to make the unit ready for use, and the level of taxes. Other factors include whether state and local laws are being followed and how the money from the rent hike would be used.

Smaller towns under 25,000 would be allowed to establish a joint commission under the bill.

Currently, the towns with fair rent commissions include higher-income suburbs such as Glastonbury, Simsbury, Farming-

ton, and West Hartford. Others include Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, Stamford, Bloomfield, Enfield, Manchester, New Britain, and Norwalk. Waterbury is the largest city that does not have a commission.

The 110-member Council of Small Towns, which represents municipalities with populations lower than 35,000, opposes “a blanket mandate” to force all communities to comply.

“Many rental property owners have been struggling during the ongoing pandemic due to restrictions on collecting rents and evicting tenants that have failed to pay their rent,” COST said in written testi-

mony on the bill. “Fair Rent Commissions may further discourage such property owners from making rental properties available, decreasing the number of units available in communities.”

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, a longtime lobbying group at the Capitol, said it opposes the “unfunded mandate” that the bill would impose.

The mandate, CCM says, does not address various questions, including, “Are there a large number of renters within the community? Is there excessive rental charges within the municipality? Does the municipality have the capacity, staff, and finan-

cial resources to create and operate a commission?”

Amy Eppler-Epstein, an attorney with the New Haven Legal Assistance Association, testified recently at a public hearing in favor of the bill.

“In New Haven, the Fair Rent Commission ... has been particularly important when landlords seek to raise rents without making much needed repairs,” she said. “In such instances, Fair Rent Commissions not only can limit the amount of rent increases, but can also require repairs before any increase is approved at all.”

Christopher Keating can be reached at ckeating@courant.com.

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WAR IN UKRAINE

Ukraine war refugees top 5 million

How and where to rebuild lives weigh on those fleeing

By Monika Scislowska and Rafal Niedzielski
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — After spending weeks with no electricity or water in the basement of her family’s home in Ukraine, Viktoriya Savyichkina made a daring escape from the besieged city of Mariupol with her 9- and 14-year-old daughters. Their dwelling for now is a huge convention center in Poland’s capital. Savyichkina said she saw a photo of the home in Mariupol destroyed. From a camp bed in a foreign country, the 40-year-old bookkeeper thinks about restarting her and her children’s lives from square one.

“I don’t even know where we are going, how it will turn out,” Savyichkina said. “I would like to go home, of course. Maybe here, I will enjoy it in Poland.”

With the war in Ukraine approaching eight weeks, more than 5 million people have fled the country since Russian troops invaded Feb. 24, the U.N. refugee agency reported Wednesday. When the number reached 4 million March 30, the exodus exceeded the worst-case predictions of the Geneva-based office of the U.N. high commissioner for refugees.

The even bigger milestone in Europe’s biggest refugee crisis since World War II was reached as Russia unleashed a full-scale offensive in eastern Ukraine that will disrupt and end more



Families fill a refugee center last month near Warsaw. More than half of Ukrainian refugees are children. PETR DAVID JOSEK/AP

lives. The millions of people who left Ukraine because of the war “have left behind their homes and families,” U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi tweeted Wednesday. “Many would do anything, and some even risk going back, to see their loved ones. But every new attack shatters their hopes. Only an end to the war can pave the way for rebuilding their lives.”

Ukraine had a pre-war population of 44 million, and UNHCR says the conflict has displaced more than 7 million people within Ukraine along with the 5.03 million who had left as of

Wednesday. According to the agency, another 13 million people are believed to be trapped in the war-affected areas of Ukraine.

“We’ve seen about a quarter of Ukraine’s population, more than 12 million people in total ... have been forced to flee their homes, so this is a staggering amount of people,” UNHCR spokesperson Shabia Mantoo said.

More than half of the refugees, over 2.8 million, fled at least at first to Poland. They are eligible for national ID numbers that entitle them to work and receive free health care, schooling and bonuses for families with children.

Although many of have

stayed there, an unknown number have traveled on to other countries.

Savyichkina said she is thinking about taking her daughters to Germany.

“We hope we can live there, send children to school, find work and start life from zero,” she said inside the vast premises of the Global EXPO Center in Warsaw, which is providing basic accommodations for about 800 refugees.

If “everything goes well, if the children like it first of all, then we will stay. If not ...,” Savyichkina said.

Farther south, Hungary has emerged as a major transit point for Ukrainian

refugees. Out of more than 465,000 who arrived, some 16,400 have applied for protected status, meaning they want to stay.

Hungary’s government says it has provided around \$8.7 million to several charitable organizations and is giving subsidies to companies that employ Ukrainians granted asylum.

In March, a non-governmental organization, Migration Aid, rented a five-story building in Budapest, a former workers’ hostel, to provide temporary accommodation for people escaping the war in Ukraine. It has helped some 4,000 refugees so far.

Tatiana Shulieva, 67, a retired epidemiologist who fled from Kharkiv in eastern Ukraine and wants to travel on to Egypt, said the night she spent in the hostel was “like a fairytale” after having sheltered in a basement for weeks to escape constant shelling.

Neighboring Romania has received over 750,000 refugees from Ukraine.

Oxana Cotus, who fled the southern Ukrainian city of Mykolaiv with her four small children, initially decided to go to Denmark but ended up in Bucharest because she speaks Romanian and didn’t want to be far from Ukraine.

She praised the help she received from the International Red Cross in helping her relocate and get settled.

The European nations hosting refugees say they need international help to manage the challenge, especially now as Russia has intensified attacks in Ukraine’s eastern Donbas region.

“If we have a second wave of refugees, then a real problem will come because we are at capacity. We cannot accept more,” Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski said.

About 300,000 war refugees are in the city of some 1.8 million, most of them staying in private homes, Trzaskowski said. Warsaw residents expected to host refugees for a few months, but not indefinitely, he said.

More than half of the refugees from Ukraine are children, according to UNHCR. Thousands of civilians, including children, have been killed or wounded in shelling and airstrikes.

Trump Hotel sale to end unique era in Washington

Venue was gathering spot for many in the ex-president’s orbit

By Eric Lipton
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — It’s last call at the bar of the Trump International Hotel in Washington.

The hotel — which for much of former President Donald Trump’s four years at the White House served as his dining-out spot, a gathering place for his allies and a bazaar of sorts for those seeking influence and access — is set to be sold in the coming days to a Florida investor group that will take down the Trump name and rebrand it as a Waldorf Astoria.

Even though it opened weeks before Trump’s election in 2016, the 263-room hotel quickly achieved a status in Washington that historians agree was unlike that of any other venue owned by a U.S. president.

The sprawling lobby turned into a gathering spot for Trump’s Cabinet, Republicans in Congress, foreign dignitaries, religious conservatives and Trump fans from across the United States, as well as Trump himself. The hotel generated millions of

dollars in direct payments to Trump’s family, starting from even before he was sworn in, as his own inaugural committee paid the venue more than \$1 million.

The hotel is being sold to a Miami-based investment firm, CGI Merchant Group, for \$375 million, delivering an estimated profit of more than \$100 million to the Trump family, even after it pays off its debts and accounts for other money spent on the hotel since it opened. The sale is expected to close before the end of the month, according to an executive involved in the transaction.

The transfer of the lease has been approved by the General Services Administration, the federal government’s landlord, after the agency confirmed that CGI and Hilton, which controls the Waldorf Astoria brand, have the financial capacity to own and manage the hotel.

CGI declined to provide details of its plans for the hotel. Hilton also would not comment, other than saying in a statement that “we continue to recognize the opportunity for growth in the nation’s capital and hope to have more to share soon.”

The building, on Pennsylvania Avenue, is owned

by the federal government. A landmark with a 315-foot clock tower that makes it the third-tallest building in Washington, the structure was home to the headquarters of the U.S. Postal Service until 1934 and is formally called the Old Post Office Building.

Even before Trump was sworn in, the hotel became a magnet for foreign officials, including from Saudi Arabia, whose government rented out a block of rooms, spending \$190,000 on its room tab and another \$78,000 for meals and beverages, lobbying disclosures show.

Soon enough, foreign business and government groups from Bahrain, Kuwait, Turkey and Azerbaijan, among others, followed by hosting events at the hotel, with representatives from at least 33 nations sighted there by Zach Everson, a journalist who created an online newsletter tracking social media posts from the hotel during Trump’s presidency.

In total, at least 29 Trump Cabinet members and at least 35 Republican senators were spotted at the hotel, according to Everson’s count. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin lived there for a while after he first relocated to Washington; the



The Trump International Hotel in Washington is being sold to a Miami-based investment firm for \$375 million. The hotel will be rebranded as a Waldorf Astoria. ALEX BRANDON/AP 2019

federal government even covered the \$33,000 tab for members of the Secret Service who stayed at the hotel to guard him.

Jon Meacham, a presidential historian, said that never before had there been a venue like the Trump hotel, where supporters of a sitting president could effectively pay tribute to him by frequenting a business he owned a few blocks from the White House.

Eric Trump, a son of the former president and an executive vice president at the Trump Organization,

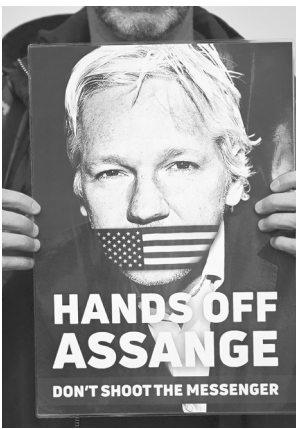
has repeatedly pointed out that the hotel donated to the U.S. Treasury any profits collected as a result of stays by foreign government officials at the hotel and took other steps to avoid ethics questions, such as not actively soliciting business from foreign governments.

In an interview this week, Eric Trump said he could not discuss details of the sale. But he said he remained proud of the work that the Trump family did after leasing a rundown gem of a federal building and turning it into what he called one

of the most beautiful public spaces in Washington.

During Trump’s presidency, spending at the hotel became a target for legal action, with attorneys general in Maryland and the District of Columbia, among others, filing lawsuits citing the hotel as the primary exhibit in claims that Trump was violating the Constitution’s emoluments clause by accepting payments from foreign governments.

The cases were deemed moot by the Supreme Court once Trump left the White House.



A Julian Assange supporter protests outside of court Wednesday in London. JUSTIN TALLIS/GETTY-APP

Judge sends Assange extradition decision to UK minister

By Jill Lawless
Associated Press

LONDON — A British judge on Wednesday formally approved the extradition of Julian Assange to the United States to face spying charges.

The case will now go to Britain’s interior minister for a decision, though the WikiLeaks founder still has legal avenues of appeal.

The order, which brings and end to the yearslong extradition battle closer,

comes after the U.K. Supreme Court last month refused Assange permission to appeal against a lower court’s ruling that he could be extradited.

District Judge Paul Goldspring issued the order in a brief hearing at Westminster Magistrates’ Court, as Assange watched by video link from Belmarsh Prison and his supporters rallied outside the courthouse, demanding he be freed.

Home Secretary Priti Patel will now decide

whether to grant the extradition.

The move doesn’t exhaust the legal options for Assange, who has sought for years to avoid a trial in the U.S. on charges related to WikiLeaks’ publication of a huge trove of classified documents more than a decade ago.

His lawyers have four weeks to make submissions to Patel, and can also seek to appeal to the High Court.

Assange lawyer Mark Summers told the court that

the legal team had “serious submissions” to make.

The U.S. has asked British authorities to extradite Assange so he can stand trial on 17 charges of espionage and one charge of computer misuse. American prosecutors say Assange unlawfully helped U.S. Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning steal classified diplomatic cables and military files that WikiLeaks later published, putting lives at risk.

Supporters and lawyers

for Assange, 50, argue that he was acting as a journalist and is entitled to First Amendment protections of freedom of speech. They argue that his case is politically motivated.

Assange’s lawyers say he could face up to 175 years in jail if he is convicted in the U.S., though American authorities have said the sentence was likely to be much lower than that.

Assange has been held at Britain’s Belmarsh Prison in London since 2019.

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WORLD & NATION



A United Airlines worker helps a passenger check in for a flight on Tuesday in San Francisco. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY

DOJ to appeal order tossing mask mandate

By Michael Balsamo and Zeke Miller
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department is filing an appeal seeking to overturn a judge’s order that voided the federal mask mandate on planes and trains and in travel hubs, officials said Wednesday.

The notice came minutes after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention asked the DOJ to appeal the decision handed down

by a federal judge in Florida earlier this week.

A notice of appeal was filed in federal court in Tampa, Florida.

The CDC said in a statement Wednesday that it is its “continuing assessment that at this time an order requiring masking in the indoor transportation corridor remains necessary for the public health.”

It remained unclear whether the Biden administration would ask the appeals court to grant an

emergency stay to immediately reimpose the mask mandate on public transit. An emergency stay of the lower court’s ruling would be a whiplash moment for travelers and transit workers. Most airlines and airports, many public transit systems and even ride-sharing company Uber lifted their mask-wearing requirements in the hours following Monday’s ruling.

A federal judge in Tampa had struck down the mask mandate for public transit

Monday, leading airlines and airports to repeal their requirements that passengers wear face coverings. The Transportation Security Administration said Monday that it would it will no longer enforce the requirement.

The CDC had recently extended the mandate until May 3 to allow more time to study the BA.2 omicron subvariant, which is responsible for the vast majority of U.S. cases. But the ruling Monday had put that decision on hold.

Diplomats dish out disinformation

Russia’s embassies, consulates are keys to propaganda push

By David Klepper
Associated Press

As governments and social media companies have moved to suppress Russia’s state media and the disinformation it spreads about the war in Ukraine, the Kremlin’s diplomats are stepping up to do the dirty work.

Russian embassies and consulates around the world are prolifically using Facebook, Twitter and other platforms to deflect blame for atrocities while seeking to undermine the international coalition supporting Ukraine.

Tech companies have responded by adding more labels to Russia’s diplomatic accounts and by removing the accounts from its recommendations and search results. But the accounts are still active and are disseminating disinformation and propaganda in nearly every nation, in part because their diplomatic status gives them an added layer of protection from moderation.

With hundreds of social media accounts on every continent, Russia’s diplo-

matic corps acts as a global network for propaganda, in which the same claims can be recycled and tweaked for different audiences in different nations.

And, so far, steps to substantially curtail that effort have fallen short.

“Each week since the beginning of the war these diplomats have posted thousands of times, gaining more than a million engagements on Twitter per week,” said Marcel Schliebs, a disinformation researcher at the Oxford Internet Institute at Oxford University.

He has tracked more than 300 social media accounts linked to Russian embassies, consulates and diplomatic groups.

Some Russian embassies, like those in the U.K. and Mexico for example, are especially active, churning out pro-Russian propaganda and spreading falsehoods intended to support the invasion.

The Russian missile attack on a Ukrainian rail station in Kramatorsk this month that killed more than 50? Ukrainians were behind it, the Russian Embassy in the U.K. tweeted.

Talk of Russian war crimes? It’s a plot by Britain to make Russia look bad, the embassy claimed.

Those Ukrainian soldiers fighting for their country? They’re actually Nazis operating under U.S. orders, the embassy alleged.

The Russian Embassy in London tweeted out those and other conspiracy theories all on one day last week.

Each post received hundreds or thousands of retweets, comments and likes, including dozens from other Twitter users pushing back on the propaganda.

“They must know better, but that’s what it’s like living in and working for a totalitarian regime,” said Nicholas Cull, a University of Southern California professor who studies the intersection of diplomacy and propaganda. “A totalitarian regime requires a media bubble. It requires censorship at home, and it requires your own messaging, both for a domestic and foreign audience. That’s what this is.”

As representatives of their countries empowered to speak on their behalf, diplomats have always been known for pushing their nation’s talking points. Russian diplomats in particular have long been known for spreading the Kremlin’s disinformation. Russian diplomats used social media to spread disinfor-

mation about the invasion of Crimea in 2014 and about the poisoning of Russian dissidents.

Their status as representatives of a foreign government has often given them the freedom to speak.

Since the start of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, tech companies and even governments have taken other actions to stop the flow of disinformation coming from Russia’s state-controlled media.

The European Union banned outlets like RT and Sputnik. Meta barred those outlets from platforms it owns, including Facebook and Instagram. Tech companies also cut off the outlets from ad revenue and expanded efforts to label their accounts.

A message seeking comment from the Russian Embassy in the U.S. was not immediately returned.

A noticeable increase in pro-Russian propaganda regarding Ukraine began in the weeks and months before the invasion even began in February.

The accounts were tweeting about 2,000 times per week immediately after the invasion, resulting in more than 1 million likes, retweets and comments, according to Schliebs’ research.



The Russian Embassy in the U.K. blamed Ukraine for a recent rocket attack that killed dozens at a rail station in the city of Kramatorsk. FADEL SENNA/GETTY-AFP

That engagement fell after Twitter announced earlier this month that it would no longer promote more than 300 Russian accounts or include them in search results, a technical move known as “demotion,” designed to limit the accounts’ reach. Yet despite Twitter’s action, the accounts Schliebs monitored are still earning about half a million likes, retweets and comments per week.

Twitter and Facebook have added “Russian government organization” labels to many of these accounts to ensure users know the source of the information.

But Schliebs found many accounts still have no labels: Of the 300 or so accounts he’s looked at, only about a third have a label.

A Twitter spokeswoman said the company has already labeled 260,000 Tweets from Russian accounts since Feb. 28 and is continuing to add labels to accounts “on a rolling basis.”

Schliebs compared the response by tech companies to Russia’s invasion with their actions following the 2020 U.S. election, the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol and the COVID-19 pandemic. Then-President Donald Trump was kicked off Twitter for inciting violence ahead of the Jan. 6 riot. But the Russian diplomats — they have spread wild conspiracy theories and blamed Ukrainians for Russian atrocities — stay on.

“By no means am I defending him (Trump), but I fail to see the consistency in that policy,” he said.

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WORLD & NATION

Iran’s stance on war in Ukraine not clear-cut

Tehran tilts toward Moscow yet some express sympathy

By Nasser Karimi and Jon Gambrell
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — During its 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran embraced the protest cry of “neither East nor West,” rejecting both the U.S. and the Soviet Union, then locked in the Cold War. The phrase to this day hangs over the doors of Iran’s Foreign Ministry. Russia’s war on Ukraine, however, has exposed just how much Tehran has tilted toward Moscow in recent years as the collapse of its nuclear deal with world powers stoked decades-old, hard-line anger at America. Members of Iran’s paramilitary Revolutionary Guard train on Russian surface-to-air missile systems and aircraft. Hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi visited Russian President Vladimir Putin on one of his first trips abroad.

The war also exposes deeper fault lines even within Iran’s domestic politics. Among ordinary Iranians, there is a great deal of sympathy for Ukraine, a nation that staged a pro-democracy “Orange Revolution” similar to the “Green Revolution” that shook Iran more than a decade ago but was forcefully put down. Iran’s historic enmity with Russia has combined with a wider feeling among some that backing Moscow betrays the Islamic Republic’s often-stated message that it stands against the world’s major powers. “We have to help oppressed people of Ukraine as we do support people of Palestine and Yemen simply because they are targeted by powers,” said Zohreh Ahmadi, a mother of two in downtown Tehran’s Sarcheshmeh neighborhood. “A bullying power is killing children and women



Hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran gestures after delivering a speech Jan. 20 at the State Duma, the Lower House of the Russian parliament, in Moscow. THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION PRESS SERVICE

in Ukraine.” Iran’s state-controlled television network, whose English-language service Press TV describes itself as “the voice of the voiceless,” hews close to Russian talking points. It used Moscow’s euphemistic term “special operation” to describe the war’s early days. Stories referencing the killings of civilians in Bucha by Russian forces include headlines falsely describing it as a “fake attack” or “provocation” on Press TV’s website. Part of the Iranian government’s anger at Ukraine likely stems from the aftermath of the Guard’s 2020 shooting down of an Ukrainian airliner, which killed 176 people on board. Tehran denied for days it shot down the plane before saying troops made a mistake after Iran fired ballistic missiles at U.S. forces in Iraq in response for the killing of a top general. Ukraine’s criticism of Iran grew more direct as

time went on. That’s something Tehran’s Friday prayer leader, Kazem Sedighi, mentioned in a March sermon after Russia began its war on Ukraine. “In the case of the airplane, Ukraine misbehaved against us and misused it in support to the U.S.,” Sedighi said. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has final say on all matters of state, said his nation opposed “war and destruction” while blaming America for the conflict. He also brought up a longtime suspicion that he shares with Putin — that the U.S., rather than ordinary citizens, fuels what he described as the “color coups” that back democracy. For Khamenei, it is memory of the Green Movement protests that followed Iran’s disputed 2009 presidential election that directly challenged the theocracy he leads. Iran’s security services used violence and mass arrests to put down the

demonstrations. But unrest has re-emerged in recent years over economic issues. For Putin, it is Ukraine’s 2004 Orange Revolution and its later Maidan protest movement that dislodged the Kremlin-leaning politician Viktor Yanukovich. But others from within Iran’s Shiite theocracy have raised concerns about Tehran’s stance on the war. Mohsen Aminzadeh, a former deputy foreign minister under reformist President Mohammad Khatami who was later imprisoned after the disputed 2009 election, went as far as to call Iran’s position “very bad” in a recent interview. “It was possibly the worst, the most passive stance of Iran’s diplomacy since 1979,” Aminzadeh recently told the magazine Ayandeh Negar. On the streets of Tehran recently, 17 people were willing to speak to a journalist about the war, with others declining. Of them, 12 supported Ukraine, three reiterated Iran’s official stance and two supported Russia. “I support Ukraine,” said Sajjad, a 26-year-old computer programmer. Like others, he spoke on condition he be identified only by his first name for fear of reprisals. “Russians are killing innocent people for nothing. Why should we remain silent?” A retired Iranian captain, Mehrdad, called Russia’s reasons for the war “ridiculous” and similar to those used by Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein to launch a bloody eight-year war on Iran in the 1980s. Saddam at the time pointed to supporting Iran’s Arab minority in its oil-rich southwest as a justification for his invasion. “It is stealing Saddam’s reasons for attacking Iran; possible threats by revolutionary Iran and supporting an ethnic group,” said Mehrdad, 75. “By this excuse, every country can attack others — even Russia.” Ali Nemati, a 64-year-old retired teacher, praised

Putin as “very brave” for challenging NATO, also a new preoccupation of Iran’s hard-line government under Raisi. However, Iran has been living quietly next to Turkey, which joined NATO in 1952. “Iran should support Russia since it is alone in its fight against imperialism,” Nemati said. However, in its imperial past, Russia fought multiple wars against Persia, which ceded territory to the czar. Russia invaded Iran alongside Britain in World War II to secure oil and trade routes in their war against Germany. After the war, Russia refused to leave, sparking the first global crisis of the newly formed United Nations. That memory hasn’t faded. Russia’s brief use of an Iranian air base amid the war in Syria, in which both backed embattled Syrian President Bashar Assad, similarly sparked widespread anger. Now, Iran may be feeling like a poker chip in a wider game rather than a player at the geopolitical table. A demand by Russia for sanctions-relief guarantees threw negotiations in Vienna over Iran’s tattered nuclear deal into disarray. Russia’s demand seems to have eased, while now it appears American sanctions on the Guard remain the last hurdle. Iranians have noticed Russia’s gambit. “The point that Putin made a strategic mistake and sent forces to Ukraine and is now drowning in an Ukrainian quagmire cannot be a (logical) reason for Russia to take the deal as hostage,” the conservative daily newspaper Jomhuri Eslami said in a March editorial. Taxi driver Abbas Najafi suggested Iran stay out of it all together. “It is not our war. It is not our problem,” he said. “We are under the U.S. sanctions now, and we should not look for more headaches.”

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WORLD & NATION

Myanmar’s health system broken

Security forces crack down on doctors who oppose military

By Richard C. Paddock
The New York Times

The surgeon was in the middle of operating on a patient when the squad of soldiers entered the hospital looking for doctors to arrest. A receptionist alerted the surgeon, Dr. Kyaw Swar, but it was too late for him to stop the procedure.

Hoping to avoid attention, he ran out into the hallway and collected the shoes that he and his colleagues had left outside the operating room door — a telltale sign that surgery was underway. Moments later, the soldiers walked noisily past the operating theater.

“If they had found us, they would have arrested us,” Kyaw Swar said. “But I will not run away while I am operating on a patient. It is not a crime for a doctor to treat patients.”

Kyaw Swar’s close call last month came as Myanmar’s security forces intensify their crackdown on doctors who oppose the military junta that seized power in February 2021. Doctors have been at the forefront of a nationwide civil disobedience movement that has crippled the economy, and the regime has targeted health care workers from the start.

In recent weeks, security forces have arrested doctors at their homes and hospitals, revoked the licenses of prominent physicians, searched hospitals for wounded resistance fighters and threatened to close health care centers that employ doctors opposing the regime.

For Myanmar soldiers, who are notorious for stealing from citizens, going after doctors is also a convenient way to make money, since doctors are among the country’s wealthier people. During arrests, soldiers have



Patients with gunshot wounds in an emergency ward in Yangon, Myanmar. The staff had shut down the hospital as part of mass protests against the military coup weeks earlier, but were secretly treating injured protesters. **THE NEW YORK TIMES 2021**

seized cash, gold, jewelry and vehicles worth tens of thousands of dollars. In some cases, army officers have demanded as much as \$5,000 not to shut down a private hospital, officials said.

Since the coup started last year, soldiers and police officers have arrested 140 doctors for participating in the nationwide protest movement, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which is monitoring arrests. Of these, 89 remain behind bars.

At least 30 doctors have been killed, according to the New York-based Physicians for Human Rights, which called Myanmar one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a health worker.

The harassment and arrest of doctors who oppose the regime comes as the country faces a continuing health emergency because of a severe shortage

of doctors, a chronic lack of resources and the closing of many hospitals and clinics.

In a statement this month marking World Health Day, a rights group, Network for Human Rights Documentation Burma, said the Myanmar military has “destabilized the country beyond repair.”

“The health care sector is one of many which has been obliterated,” the group said.

Nearly 1 million children are not receiving routine immunizations, leaving them vulnerable to measles and other diseases, and nearly 5 million children are missing out on vitamin A supplements, putting them at risk of infections and blindness, according to UNICEF.

Throughout the country, barely 40% of the population is fully vaccinated for COVID-19, and many patients are left without routine care. Operations are difficult to schedule.

Doctors say that health care has improved somewhat in recent months in Yangon, Myanmar’s largest city, with many physicians returning to work. But anti-regime doctors estimate that hundreds of people are still dying each week because of the collapse of the health care system.

One regime tactic has been to release doctors from prison on the condition that they disavow the civil disobedience movement and agree to work at a military-controlled, government hospital, doctors said.

“In conflict-torn areas, it’s worse than in cities because the government hospitals are not running at all and people are mostly in refugee camps in the jungle,” said Dr. Wai Myo, who was fired from Mandalay General Hospital last year for joining the protest movement. “So, if something happens to them, the chance of death is very high.”

A spokesperson for the junta’s health ministry declined to comment.

After the coup, thousands of doctors refused to work for the regime and left jobs in government facilities. Many began offering their services free at private hospitals and underground clinics.

In its attempt to force doctors to work in centers it controls, the military has shut down at least a dozen clinics offering free medical treatment and demanded that private hospitals and clinics hand over the names of patients and their medical history.

As it hunts down anti-regime doctors and wounded combatants, the regime has branded people seeking care from underground clinics as “illegal patients.”

“What is the reason to arrest us?” Wai Myo asked. “Just for giving treatment? It’s total nonsense. I want to be a good citizen, so I

joined the civil disobedience movement. I want to be a good doctor, so I’m giving free medical treatment to patients.”

Mandalay General Hospital, a major teaching hospital in Myanmar’s second-largest city, has been at the center of the protest movement since the start. Doctors in Mandalay have been much slower than those in other regions to return to work at government-controlled centers.

Last month, the city’s health director and the army general who is Mandalay’s chief commander summoned private hospital owners to a meeting and informed them that the licenses of 14 medical professors and leading specialists at Mandalay General Hospital would be revoked, according to hospital owners who attended the meeting.

They warned that any private hospital that hired them — or other doctors known to support the civil disobedience movement — would be shut down.

The loss of highly trained doctors can have life-or-death consequences for some patients.

Lieu Shin, a rice farmer from Kalay, 160 miles northwest of Mandalay, is in desperate need of a kidney transplant, and his brother has agreed to donate one. But Mandalay General Hospital, the only place in the region where such surgery could be done, no longer has a team of doctors capable of performing the operation.

Lieu Shin, 64, was given only days to live, but continues to hang on with dialysis, which is exhausting his family’s savings. He blames the regime for his inability to get treatment, not the doctors.

“The doctors said I need an emergency operation,” he said. “But there are not enough doctors at the hospital. All I can do now is wait for my turn to die.”



The Tunnel Fire burns Tuesday near Flagstaff, Arizona. The wildfire nearly tripled in size Wednesday, forcing hundreds of residents from their homes. **COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST**

Southwest wildfires prompt hundreds to flee, officials say

By Felicia Fonseca
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — An Arizona wildfire nearly tripled in size as relentless winds pushed the flames through neighborhoods on the outskirts of a college and tourist town, keeping hundreds of residents away from their homes and destroying more than two dozen structures.

The blaze continued its run Wednesday through dry grass and scattered Ponderosa pines around homes into volcanic cinder fields, where roots underground can combust and send small rocks flying into the air, fire officials said. Persistent spring winds and 50 mph gusts hindered firefighters.

“This is a heads-up for everywhere else in the state,” said fire information officer Dick Fleishman. “If you have dry grass up next to your house, it’s time to get that cleaned up.”

Fire managers are contending with tight resources as wildfires burn around the Southwest.

The U.S. has 16 top-level national fire management teams, and four of those

are dedicated to blazes in Arizona and New Mexico — something Fleishman said is rare this early in the wildfire season.

Hundreds of people have been evacuated because of the wildfires north of Flagstaff and south of Prescott in Arizona.

In New Mexico, the Mora County Sheriff’s Office issued mandatory evacuations for more residents as winds fueled a blaze that has burned more than 14 square miles since Sunday.

Red flag warnings were on tap across New Mexico on Wednesday and through the rest of the week. Winds were expected to be lighter Wednesday in Arizona but will strengthen Thursday and Friday, said Mark Stubblefield of the National Weather Service.

The number of acres burned in the U.S. this year is about 30 percent above the 10-year average — a figure that has gone up from 20 percent just earlier this month as the fire danger shifted from the Southern U.S. to the Southwest.

On the outskirts of Flagstaff where tourists and locals revel in hiking and horseback riding trails,

camping spots, and the vast expanse of cinder fields for off-road vehicle use, flames soared as high as 100 feet. Popular national monuments, including Sunset Crater Volcano and Wupatki, were closed because of the wildfire.

Some homes burned to the ground, though Coconino County hasn’t said how many. Officials said Tuesday night that 766 homes and 1,000 animals had been evacuated, and about 250 structures remained threatened.

One man who reportedly was trapped in his home by the flames was able to get out, Coconino County sheriff’s spokesman Jon Paxton said Wednesday.

Firefighters were expected to move through neighborhoods to cool down any smoldering spots and assess what’s most at risk. Paxton said no injuries or deaths have been reported.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. It started Sunday northeast of Flagstaff and ballooned from 100 acres Tuesday to 26 square miles by Wednesday. Fire crews have yet to corral any part of it.

NM agency issues \$136,793 fine in fatal Baldwin shooting

By Morgan Lee
Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — New Mexico workplace safety regulators on Wednesday issued the maximum possible fine of nearly \$137,000 against a film production company for firearms safety failures on the set of “Rust,” where a cinematographer was fatally shot in October by actor and producer Alec Baldwin.

New Mexico’s Occupational Health and Safety Bureau said Rust Movie Productions must pay \$136,793, and distributed a scathing narrative of safety failures in violation of standard industry protocols, including testimony that production managers took limited or no action to address two misfires on set prior to the fatal shooting. The bureau also documented gun safety complaints from crew members that went unheeded and said weapons specialists were not allowed to make decisions about additional safety training.

“What we had, based on our investigators’ findings, was a set of obvious hazards to employees regarding the use of firearms and management’s failure to act upon those obvious hazards,” said Bob Genoway, bureau chief for occupational safety.

At a ranch on the outskirts of Santa Fe on Oct. 21, 2021, Baldwin was pointing a gun at cinematographer Halyna Hutchins inside a small church during setup for the filming of a scene when it went off, killing Hutchins and wounding the director, Joel Souza.

Baldwin said in a December interview with ABC News that he was pointing the gun at Hutchins at her instruction on the New Mexico set of the Western film when it went off without his pulling the trigger.

The new occupational safety report confirms that a large-caliber revolver



A cinematographer was fatally shot last October by actor-producer Alec Baldwin on the set of the film “Rust” at the Bonanza Creek Ranch in Santa Fe, N.M. **JAE C. HONG/AP 2021**

was handed to Baldwin by an assistant director, David Halls, without consulting with on-set weapons specialists during or after the gun was loaded. Regulators note that Halls also served as safety coordinator and that he was present and witnessed two accidental discharges of rifles on set, and that he and other managers who knew of the misfires took no investigative, corrective or disciplinary action. Crew members expressed surprise and discomfort.

“The Safety Coordinator was present on set and took no direct action to address safety concerns,” the report states. “Management was provided with multiple opportunities to take corrective actions and chose not to do so. As a result of these failures, Director Joel Souza and cinematographer Halyna Hutchins were severely injured. Halyna Hutchins succumbed to her injuries.”

Rust Movie Productions said through a spokesperson that it would dispute the findings and sanction. An attorney for Baldwin was not immediately available for comment.

At least five lawsuits have been filed over the shooting, including a wrongful death suit brought by Hutchins’

family against Baldwin and the movie’s other producers. The lawsuit on behalf of widower Matt Hutchins and his 9-year-old son alleges a “callous” disregard of safety complaints on set.

James Kenney, secretary of the Environment Department that oversees occupational safety, said the agency dedicated 1,500 staff hours to its investigation, examined hundreds of documents and conducted at least a dozen interviews with cast and crew members.

Investigators found production managers placed tight limits on resources for a small team that controlled weapons on set and failed to address concerns about a shotgun left unattended twice.

Armorer Hannah Gutierrez Reed was limited to eight paid days as an armorer to oversee weapons and training, and was assigned otherwise to lighter duties as a props assistant. As her time as an armorer ran out, Gutierrez Reed warned a manager and was rebuffed.

Kenney said the separate investigations into possible criminal charges are still underway. The Santa Fe County sheriff and local prosecutors had no immediate comment.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Biden expected to tap Arizona prosecutor as interim ATF director

From news services

The Biden administration plans to pick Gary Restaino, the top U.S. prosecutor in Arizona, as the interim director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives until a permanent leader is confirmed, according to officials with knowledge of the situation.

This month, President Joe Biden nominated Steven Dettelbach, who served as a federal prosecutor in Ohio under President Barack Obama, to run an embattled agency that has had one permanent, Senate-confirmed director in the past 15 years.

The bureau's current acting director, Marvin Richardson, a career official who drew criticism over an appearance in January with the head of the gun industry's main trade group, will remain at the agency as deputy director to advise Restaino, the officials said.

Officials are cautiously optimistic that Dettelbach can be confirmed by the fall.

But they are also tapping Restaino, who has led some of the highest-profile federal prosecutions from the Justice Department's Phoenix office in recent years, to provide a more immediate boost to an underfunded agency responsible for enforcing the nation's gun laws and regulations.

It is unclear whether Restaino will remain at ATF if Dettelbach is confirmed.

But he could remain at the helm if Dettelbach's nomination fails, which the White House and Justice Department view as highly unlikely.

Last fall, Biden's first choice to run the bureau, David Chipman, a fiery former agent turned gun control advocate, was forced to withdraw after Sen.

Angus King, I-Maine, who caucuses with Democrats, opposed his nomination.

Chipman later accused Biden's team of failing to defend him from attacks by the National Rifle Association and other pro-gun groups.

Restaino, 53, has not been in his current job long. The Senate confirmed him, by a voice vote, in November.

But he has worked in the Arizona office for nearly two decades, serving as the chief of the criminal division in Phoenix and the head of the white-collar crime section.

In 2009, he had a brief stint at the Justice Department's headquarters in Washington, where he worked in the public integrity section.

Chemical agent: The last stockpiles of a deadly chemical agent in the U.S. have been safely eliminated, according to Kentucky officials in charge of destroying the Cold War-era weapons.

The final M55 rocket containing VX nerve agent was destroyed Tuesday at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent plant. Officials at the Kentucky plant began disassembling about 18,000 of the rockets and draining the VX agent in July, according to a news release from plant officials.

Candace Coyle, the plant's project manager, said Wednesday the nation's entire stockpile of VX nerve agent "is now completely destroyed."

VX is considered the deadliest of the chemical agents that was produced by the U.S., much of it in the 1960s. It has a consistency similar to motor oil and even a tiny amount causes victims' bodies to flood with fluids, producing a feeling of drowning before death.

Officials in 2017 declared that assassins used VX agent



Israeli police block right-wing activists from marching toward the Old City in Jerusalem on Wednesday. Law enforcement prevented the marchers from reaching dense Palestinian neighborhoods in and around the Old City after a similar event last year helped trigger an Israel-Gaza war. A rocket was later fired into Israel from the Gaza Strip, Israel's military said. **ARIEL SCHALIT/AP**

to kill the brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in a Malaysian airport.

Execution halted: South Carolina's highest court Wednesday issued a temporary stay blocking the state from carrying out what was set to be its first firing squad execution.

The order puts on hold the planned April 29 execution of Richard Bernard Moore, who drew the death sentence for the 1999 killing of a convenience store clerk in Spartanburg.

Attorneys for the 57-year-old inmate had sought a stay, citing pending litigation in another court challenging the constitutionality of South Carolina's execution methods, which also include the electric chair.

The most recent execution by firing squad was that of Ronnie Lee Gardner in 2010 in Utah.

Muslim shops razed: Authorities used bulldozers to raze several Muslim-

owned shops in New Delhi before India's Supreme Court halted the demolitions Wednesday, days after communal violence shook the capital and saw dozens arrested.

Shop owners searched through the rubble of their shops afterward to collect their belongings. But for nearly an hour after the Supreme Court order, officials continued to demolish structures, including the outer entrance and stairs leading into a mosque.

They stopped the bulldozers just outside the entrance of a Hindu temple, about 160 feet from the mosque, and began to retreat, spurring outrage from Muslim residents who said they were being targeted.

Anti-Muslim sentiment and attacks have risen across India in the past 10 days, including stone-throwing between Hindu and Muslim groups during religious processions and demolitions of a number of properties, many belonging to

Muslims, in another state in the Southeast Asian nation last week.

Peru ambassador: U.S. Secret Service officers shot and killed an intruder who was smashing windows at the residence of the Peruvian ambassador to the United States on Wednesday, authorities said.

The ambassador and his family were inside the residence in northwest Washington when they heard several windows being smashed just before 8 a.m. and called the Secret Service for a "burglary in progress," authorities said.

The uniformed officers encountered a man, armed with a metal stake, and deployed a Taser in an effort to detain him, but "those weapons appear to not have any effect on the person," Metropolitan Police Department Chief Robert Contee said.

The officers then shot the man, who was pronounced dead at the scene, Contee

said. His identity has not been released.

In a tweet, the Peruvian Embassy said the ambassador, his family and the staff at the residence were safe and the matter was “being investigated by the competent authorities.”

Correspondents' dinner: President Joe Biden plans to attend the White House Correspondents' Association's annual dinner, the first time a sitting president will be at the event since Barack Obama in 2016.

The organization said in a tweet that it was pleased to host Biden and first lady Jill Biden at the dinner April 30 that will honor the First Amendment.

Donald Trump opted to skip the event when he was president.

The event was canceled in 2020 and last year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Trevor Noah, host of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show," is serving as the event's entertainer.

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Poll: Mask mandate for passengers still popular

56% of Americans favor practice in survey taken before federal judge’s ruling

By Dave Kolpack
Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. — A majority of Americans continue to support a mask requirement for people traveling on airplanes and other shared transportation, a new poll finds. A ruling by a federal judge had put the government’s transportation mask mandate on hold.

The poll by Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that despite opposition to that requirement that included verbal abuse and physical violence against flight attendants, 56% of Americans favor requiring people on planes, trains and public transportation to wear masks, compared with 24% opposed and 20% who say they’re neither in favor nor opposed.

Interviews for the poll were conducted Thursday to Monday, shortly before a federal judge in Florida struck down the national mask mandate on airplanes and mass transit. Airlines and airports immediately scrapped their requirements that

passengers wear face coverings.

The Transportation Security Administration had stopped enforcing the mask requirement, but the Justice Department announced Wednesday that it would appeal the judge’s ruling after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention asked the department to do so.

The poll shows a wide partisan divide on the issue. Among Democrats, 80% favor and just 5% oppose the requirement.

Among Republicans, 45% are opposed compared with 33% in favor, with 22% saying neither.

The continued support among Americans overall for mandating masks on transportation comes even as worries about COVID-19 are among their lowest points of the past two years. Just 20% now say they’re very or extremely worried that they or a family member will be infected.

That’s down slightly since 25% said the same just a month ago and from 36% in December and January as the omicron variant was raging. Another 33% now say they are somewhat worried, while 48% say

they’re not worried at all.

The poll also shows about half of Americans favor requiring masks for workers who interact with the public, compared with about 3 in 10 opposed. Support is similar for requiring people at crowded public events such as concerts, sporting events and movies to wear masks.

On these, too, there are significant partisan divides. Seventy-two percent of Democrats favor requiring people attending crowded public events to wear masks, while among Republicans, 25% are in favor and 49% are opposed. The numbers are similar for requiring masks for public-facing workers.

Employed Americans are divided on whether people working in person at their own workplaces should be required to wear masks. Thirty-four percent say they’re in favor of that requirement, 33% are opposed and 33% are neither in favor nor opposed.

Among workers who are Democrats, 48% are in favor and 18% are opposed. Among workers who are Republicans, 53% are opposed and 18% are in favor.

Musk races to line up funding for Twitter bid

By Lauren Hirsch
The New York Times

Elon Musk is racing to secure funding for his \$43 billion bid to buy Twitter.

Morgan Stanley, the investment bank working with Musk on the potential deal, has been calling banks and other potential investors to shore up financing for the offer, four people with knowledge of the situation said.

Musk is first focused on raising debt and has not yet begun to seek equity financing for his bid, one of the people said.

Musk, 50, is evaluating various packages of debt, including more senior debt known as preferred debt and a loan against his shares of Tesla, the electric carmaker that he runs, two of the people said. Apollo Global Management, a private equity firm, is among the parties considering offering debt financing in a bid for Twitter. The equity he needs is likely to be sizable.

Musk is aiming to pull together a fully funded offer as soon as this week, one of the people said. The people with knowledge of the discussions were not authorized to speak publicly because the details are confidential and in flux.

Last week, Musk, the world’s wealthiest man, made an unsolicited offer for the social media company, saying that he wanted to take it private and that he wanted people to be able to speak more freely on the service. But his offer was regarded skeptically by Wall Street because he did not include details about how he would come up with the money for the deal.

While Twitter’s board has not rejected Musk’s offer, it responded days later with a “poison pill,” a tactic that would effectively prevent Musk from owning more than 15% of Twitter’s shares. Musk owns more than 9% of Twitter, making him its single-biggest individual shareholder.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Mexico’s Senate OKs lithium plan

MEXICO CITY — Mexico’s Senate passed a bill Tuesday to nationalize lithium mining and extraction. The bill was submitted by President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who is expected to sign it into law.

The law says a state-run company will have exclusive rights to mine lithium, a mineral used in electric car batteries and other devices. Such a company does not yet exist, and the Mexican government has no experience in mining lithium.

The bill passed in the lower house of Congress on Monday.

Only one lithium mine in Mexico, operated by a Chinese firm, is anywhere close to starting production. It was not clear if that mine in northern Mexico would be taken over by the government.

Russia shunned at G-20 meeting

WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Ukrainian Finance Minister Serhiy Marchenko walked out of a Group of 20 meeting Wednesday as Russia’s representative started talking.

Several finance ministers and central bank governors also left the room, according to an official familiar with the meetings, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the event was not public. Some ministers and central bank governors who attended the meeting virtually turned their cameras off when the Russia representative spoke, the person said.

The incident came amid the International Monetary Fund and World Bank spring meetings, in which finance heads gather to tackle the world’s most pressing issues.



Passwords for streaming services are being sold illegally, according to companies that manage digital content protection. DREAMSTIME

Trying to turn off the tap

Streaming services fight to stem losses resulting from password sharing, piracy

By Wendy Lee
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The website promised some tantalizing deals.

One seller offered 10 days access to Netflix in Ultra HD for \$1 instead of \$19.99 a month for a Netflix premium account.

Another seller pitched access to HBO Max for just \$1.09 a month, compared with its \$14.99 a month price tag.

Someone else was offering a Disney+ subscription (typically costing \$7.99 a month) for as low as 90 cents.

Satisfied customers chimed in with enthusiastic reviews.

As competition for customers among streaming services heats up, so has the proliferation of online marketplaces where passwords are being sold illegally at bargain-basement prices, according to companies that manage digital content protection for Hollywood studios.

Such marketplaces have sprouted in response to the popularity of password sharing — which has become a growing headache for streamers that rely on

subscription revenue to finance the rising cost of producing content.

Account sharing and piracy cost streamers and pay TV providers \$9.1 billion in lost revenue in 2019. That’s expected to grow to \$12.5 billion in lost revenue by 2024, according to market research and consulting firm Parks Associates.

Some experts say those estimates are conservative. A Citi analyst estimated streaming services lose roughly \$25 billion a year due to password sharing, with Netflix representing 25% of that amount.

“In the past, credential sharing has been tolerated because it’s a form of growing your audience, the popularity of your brand and your service,” said Ken Gerstein, vice president of sales at NAGRA, a Swiss company that advises streamers and others on antipiracy measures. “But there’s a point where competition starts to limit growth.”

Netflix last month took a major step to crack down on password sharing among people who don’t live in the same home. The streamer said it was testing features that would allow its subscribers in Chile, Costa Rica and Peru to add up to two users outside of their household, for an additional \$2 or \$3 per account.

Last year, Netflix also tested a prompt during the login process that would remind some nonpaying viewers that if they don’t

live in the same house as the account holder, they would need to get their own Netflix subscription.

Netflix on Tuesday reported its first subscriber loss in more than a decade. The company’s customer base fell by 200,000 subscribers during the January-March period, according to its latest quarterly earnings report. It’s the first time that Netflix’s subscribers have fallen since the streaming service became available throughout most of the world outside of China six years ago.

The drop stemmed in part from Netflix’s decision to withdraw from Russia to protest the war against Ukraine, resulting in a loss of 700,000 subscribers. Netflix is projecting a loss of another 2 million subscribers during the April-June period.

People who tend to share passwords are aged 18 to 24, according a study by the Advertising Research Foundation that surveyed 10,400 adults. Younger consumers may be more cash-strapped and are looking for ways to save money from paying for multiple streaming services, despite exposing themselves to security risks, especially if they use the same password for other services like a bank account, industry experts said.

Associated Press contributed.

CSX to hike pay ahead of expected raises

By Josh Funk
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — CSX has agreed to start paying some of its employees more in advance of raises the railroad expects to agree to as part of ongoing national contract talks.

CSX said the payments of up to \$600 a month are expected to start next month for members of the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers, Transportation Division union. The Jacksonville, Florida-based railroad plans to reach similar agreements with its other unions.

The side deal that CSX announced late Tuesday may be an encouraging sign for the larger contract talks between the National

Railway Labor Conference coalition of railroads that has been negotiating with unions since the fall of 2019. Those talks have been stalled in mediation.

A spokesman for the NRLC group that is negotiating on behalf of more than 30 railroads didn’t immediately respond to questions about the talks Wednesday. All the major freight railroads, including CSX, Union Pacific, BNSF, Norfolk Southern and Kansas City Southern, are involved in those negotiations.

CSX Corp. CEO Jim Foote said the railroad decided to start paying its employees more to help them deal with skyrocketing inflation that is driving prices of food and gas higher.

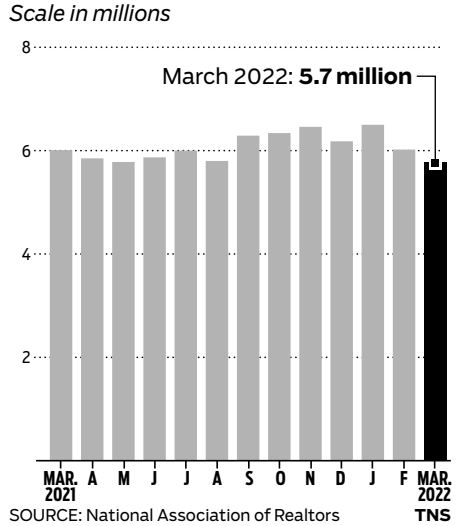
“This tentative agreement with

SMART-TD is good for our employees, and we are committed to working with all of our labor unions to get this done for all union employees, who should not be left behind for months and months as we await the complex issues in national bargaining to be settled,” Foote said.

A spokesman for the SMART-TD union didn’t immediately respond to questions Wednesday.

The unions are reluctant to make significant concessions in the negotiations after the major freight railroads cut nearly one-third of their workforce over the past six years as they overhauled their operations. The workers also remained on the job throughout the pandemic to keep freight moving.

Existing home sales



BUSINESS



Standing this week on a houseboat that he's been living in while his home is being repaired, Ted Falgout points out the waterline from Hurricane Ida in 2021. GERALD HERBERT/AP

Gulf Coast, Mississippi River cities eager for flood funding

By Michael Phillis
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — When Hurricane Ida hit last summer, a storm surge overwhelmed a levee and gushed into Ted Falgout's coastal Louisiana home, destroying his furniture and the beloved framed photos of his twin sons kissing him on their first day of school, then again when they graduated high school.

“That water was probably 60% mud,” said Falgout, who's hoping relief is on the way for his community in Larose, about 30 miles southwest of New Orleans.

As climate change makes hurricanes stronger and increases storm surges, cities on the Louisiana coast and Mississippi River are hoping President Joe Biden's \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package will provide badly needed funding to fortify locks, levees and other flood protections.

But community groups and advocates fear smaller cities will struggle to navigate the maze of government programs and miss out on the rare chance to protect against rising waters and heavy rains.

“I think the agencies are still figuring a lot of this out,” said Colin Wellenkamp, executive director of the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative, which advocates for communities along the river.

While many swaths of the country are at risk for flooding, the Louisiana coast has long been especially vulnerable and the Upper Mississippi is part of a region where flood severity is increasing faster than in any other area of the country.

La Crosse, Wisconsin, is among the cities trying to figure out how to benefit as infrastructure funds start rolling out.

The city's levees were built after devastating flooding in 1965 and don't meet federal standards that would help lower insurance rates and make it easier for residents to fix up their homes without having to spend more to protect against floods, said Brad Woznak of SEH, a flood planning consultant for the city.

Upgrading the levees would be so expensive it's hard for the city to know how to get started, he said.

“But with this potential

infrastructure bill funding, that's what I keep telling them — don't rule anything out yet,” Woznak said.

Some advocates want agencies to make it easier for communities to learn about funding opportunities and ensure that simple applications from small towns will be able to compete against more sophisticated proposals from richer cities. They also want more clarity into how the Biden administration considers factors like economic and environmental inequality.

The Environmental Protection Agency also said it will offer assistance to disadvantaged areas and states have money to help small communities access funding for drinking and wastewater projects. Rural communities are also getting special guidance on tapping into the money.

But further complicating the scramble for funding is debate about the best approaches for protecting against floods. In addition to protections like levees and floodgates, Congress directed the Army Corps to consider natural solutions like the restoration of wetlands.

Disneyland again embraces hugs in wake of 2-year ban

By Brooks Barnes
The New York Times

ANAHEIM, Calif. — As the smell of cinnamon rolls and suntan lotion wafted through the spring air at Disneyland one day this week, Rory Sutherland flung herself on the sidewalk and had what can only be described as a hissy fit.

She was ready for a hug from Mickey Mouse — in fact, beyond ready: For more than two years, ever since the pandemic began, Disneyland's furry inhabitants have been off limits. The park was closed for 14 months. When it reopened in April 2021 with extensive health-related modifications, Mickey and Minnie and their cohorts were kept at a distance from guests.

No hugs or autographs or secrets whispered in little ears.

But on Monday, Rory, 2, trained her eyes on someone coming around the corner in red trousers and big, white gloves. Squeal-screaming, she picked herself up off the pavement and ran toward him with arms outstretched. Her mother, father and uncle chased after her and scrambled to unlock their iPhones to catch a photo of their embrace.

That's right: Hugs are back.

“Cheese! Cheese!” Rory shouted toward her paparazzi, as Mickey knelt to rub noses with her.

Rory's mother, Alyssa Sutherland, wiped away a tear.

“We've been waiting and waiting for the character interactions to come back,” Sutherland said, noting that the family had traveled to Southern California from Lethbridge, Alberta, in Canada.

Mickey was himself undoubtedly in need of a hug.

In addition to the lingering effects of the pandemic, Disney has been roiled



Mickey Mouse gives a hug Monday to Rory Sutherland at Disneyland. ALEX WELSH/ THE NEW YORK TIMES

out than ever, according to Robyn Vossen, Disneyland's general manager of entertainment operations. In some instances, characters appear without notice (always with a handler to run interference). Some characters, including the Disney princesses, are so mobbed that the company has built indoor, heavily themed environments for them to inhabit.

“Fur characters” (those in full-body suits) do not speak and appear only for about 30 minutes at a time, largely because it can be exhausting for the performer, especially in summer heat. “Face characters,” like the princesses, do not wear masks so they can chat with guests. Disneyland has roughly 50 costumed characters in rotation, Vossen said. With the return of character hugs, operations have been almost fully restored at Disney's domestic resorts after a lengthy period in which social distancing and other coronavirus safety measures took priority. The company dropped most face-covering requirements in February.

Disney needs this summer to be a blockbuster: The division of the company that includes theme parks had \$16.6 billion in revenue last year, down from \$26 billion in 2019, according to financial filings.

“Character interactions are such a big deal because they provide an emotional touch point,” Vossen said. “That personal, one-on-one interaction may be the most powerful offering that The Walt Disney Co. has.”

With that, Mickey Mouse headed “offstage,” as Disney refers to its behind-the-scenes areas. “Time for a bathroom break,” one employee said.

Vossen, who has worked at Disneyland for 42 years, frowned and offered a correction. “Or to grab a quick piece of cheese,” she said.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Thursday, April 21, 2022

▲ DOW
35,160.79 +249.59

▼ 10-YR T-BOND
2.84% -.07

▼ GOLD
\$1,952.30 -3.40

10 DAYS

Dow Jones Industrials
Close: 35,160.79
Change: 249.59 (0.7%)

Commodities

	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
FUELS			
Crude Oil (bbl)	102.56	102.56	+36.36%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	6.94	7.18	+85.98%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	3.28	3.25	+47.41%
METALS			
Gold (oz)	1,952.30	1,955.70	+6.83%
Silver (oz)	25.27	25.39	+8.32%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange

	ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx
Britain	1.3057	.7659
Canada	.7996	1.2507
China	.1558	6.4192
Euro	1.0842	.9223
Japan	.007825	127.80
Mexico	.049958	20.0168

Money Rates

	CLOSE	PREV.	WK.
Prime rate	3.50	3.50	
3-mo. T-Bill	0.83	0.76	
6-mo. T-Bill	1.29	1.19	
5-yr T-Note	2.87	2.66	
10-yr T-Note	2.84	2.72	
30-yr T-Bond	2.88	2.83	

Global Markets

	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	%	-10.90%
London	7,629.22	+27.94	+3.7%	+3.31%
Hong Kong	20,944.67	-83.09	-.40%	-10.48%
Nikkei	27,217.85	+232.76	+8.6%	-5.47%

Domestic Indexes

	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	35,160.79	+249.59	-3.24%
DOW Trans.	15,464.00	+256.85	-6.16%
DOW Util.	1,071.75	+11.45	+9.28%
NYSE Comp.	16,761.35	+102.45	-2.35%
Nasdaq Comp.	13,453.07	-166.59	-14.01%
S&P 500	4,459.45	-2.76	-6.44%
S&P 400	2,702.73	+20.28	-4.90%
Wilshire 5000	44,774.98	-192.06	-7.61%
Russell 2000	2,038.19	+7.42	-9.22%

Stocks of Local Interest									
STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG	YTD	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG	YTD
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	17.34	-1.34	-36.3		Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	200.42	-16.89	-40.4	
AT&T Inc (T)	19.43	-.06	-21.0		MetLife Inc (MET)	72.44	+.60	+15.9	
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	94.02	-2.91	-34.7		Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	286.36	+1.06	-14.9	
AlloVir Inc (ALVR)	6.25	+.84	-51.7		Mullen Automotive (MULN)	1.41	-.28	-73.0	
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	19.48	-.11	+8.5		Netflix Inc (NFLX)	226.19	-122.42	-62.5	
Amphenol Corp (APH)	72.54	+1.43	-17.1		Novartis AG (NVS)	91.24	-.36	+4.3	
Apple Inc (AAPL)	167.23	-.17	-5.8		Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	214.82	-7.16	-27.0	
Aterian Inc (ATER)	4.65	-1.20	+13.1		Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	75.52	+.15	-13.3	
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	49.22	+.56	-1.3		Palantir Technol (PLTR)	12.79	-.12	-29.8	
Baker Hughes Co (BKR)	35.33	-1.41	+46.8		PayPal Holdings (PYPL)	94.90	-8.76	-49.7	
Bank of America (BAC)	39.66	+.09	-10.9		Pfizer Inc (PFE)	49.75	-.43	-15.7	
Barnes Group (B)	37.26	+.73	-20.0		Pitney Bowes (PBI)	4.72	-.08	-28.8	
BitNile Holdings Inc (NILE)	.55	-.06	-54.2		Prudential Fncl (PRU)	121.06	+1.64	+11.8	
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2251.80	+12.42	-6.1		Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	74.73	+1.65	+12.0	
Borqs Technologies (BRQS)	.31	+.07	-15.6		Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	104.97	+.42	+22.0	
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	77.28	+.88	+23.9		Rite Aid Corp (RAD)	8.20	+.80	-44.2	
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	106.64	+2.78	+3.4		Rogers Corp (ROG)	272.83	-.90	-.1	
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	43.45	+.95	-19.9		Roblox Corp (RBLX)	36.75	-5.25	-64.4	
Charter Communic (CHTR)	535.96	-21.79	-17.8		SS&C Technologies (SSNC)	72.52	+.72	-11.5	
Cigna Corp (CI)	268.87	+7.84	+17.1		Snap Inc A (SNAP)	30.76	-2.87	-34.6	
Clarus Thera Hldgs (CRXT)	2.08	+.63	-14.4		SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	6.95	-.46	-56.0	
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	47.40	-.71	-5.8		Sthwstn Energy (SWN)	8.23	+.12	+76.6	
DiDi Global Inc (DIDI)	1.88	-.14	-62.2		Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	144.28	-.28	-23.5	
Disney (DIS)	124.57	-7.33	-19.6		Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	24.57	+.65	+1.1	
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	118.18	+2.09	-7.2		Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.53	-.03	-9.0	
Ethan Allen (ETD)	26.44	+.04	+.6		Terex Corp (TEX)	36.41	+.18	-17.2	
Eversource Energy (ES)	93.26	+.76	+2.5		Tilray Brands Inc (TLRY)	5.41	-.42	-23.0	
Exela Technologies (XELA)	.37	-.03	-58.4		ToughBuilt Inc (TBLT)	.21	+.01	-42.5	
Ford Motor (F)	16.05	-.10	-22.7		Travelers Cos (TRV)	177.71	+1.55	+13.6	
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	4.91	-.37	-5.6		Twitter Inc (TWTR)	46.72	+.56	+8.1	
Gen Dynamics (GD)	247.69	+1.10	+18.8		United Rentals (URI)	353.09	+1.61	+6.3	
Gen Electric (GE)	91.40	-.50	-3.2		UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	546.01	+8.31	+8.7	
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	74.65	+1.18	+8.1		VirtusInvest (VRTS)	209.74	+.14	-29.4	
Honeywell Intl (HON)	196.34	-.86	-5.8		Voya Financial (VOYA)	69.64	+.93	+5.0	
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	14.18	+.02	-10.9		Warner Bros Disc A (WBD)	23.01	-1.48	-6.8	
ION Geophysical (IO)	.70	+.33	-20.7		Webster Financial (WBS)	52.95	+.69	-5.2	
IQIYI Inc (IQ)	3.76	-.27	-17.5		Wells Fargo & Co (WFC)	48.65	+.82	+1.4	
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	20.57	+.15	-18.7		White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1074.89	-.76	+6.0	
Intel Corp (INTC)	48.11	+.18	-6.6		Windtree Therapeut (WINT)	1.02	+.02	-36.4	
Kaman (KAMN)	44.11	+.03	+2.2		World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	60.78	+.51	+23.2	
Keycorp (KEY)	21.75	+.32	-6.0		XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	57.19	+.84	-26.1	
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	68.67	+1.15	+.6		Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	19.85	+.29	-12.3	
M&T Bank (MTB)	176.34	+14.30	+14.8						
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	43.35	+.58	-3.4						
MedAvail Holdings (MDVL)	2.71	-.02	+93.6						

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OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

The moral clarity of ‘good guys’ versus ‘bad guys’



Jonah Goldberg

One of the silver linings of the very large dark cloud of Vladimir Putin’s invasion of Ukraine is the clarity it provides. This is, broadly speaking a contest between good guys and bad guys.

A lot of people who fancy themselves foreign policy realists roll their eyes at talk about “good guys” versus “bad guys.” The world is made up of nation-states with interests and those states act rationally on their interests. Good and bad ain’t got nothing to do with it.

I’ve never bought this argument.

Yes, nations have interests, but the way they define their interests is not always strictly rational. History is full of examples of nations committing vast resources to causes that are extrarational. “The mistake of the ‘realists’ is not their interest in the struggle for power but their deliberate neglect of everything else, especially the nonscientific, contingent, very human feelings and beliefs that most powerfully move people,” the late Donald Kagan wrote in

“Honor Among Nations: Intangible Interests and Foreign Policy.”

To claim that, say, North Korea’s foreign and domestic policy is an expression of its rational self-interest is to declare you don’t know anything about North Korea.

Choices matter. And that’s where the moral failings of realism come in. Realists tend to conflate the interests of rulers with the interests of the ruled. It’s hard to find a sane analyst who argues that Putin invaded Ukraine solely in the name of Russia’s rational self-interest rather than his own notions of glory and historical retribution, and it’s even harder to find one who thinks the invasion is objectively in the interest of the Russian people.

Again, while it would have been in everyone’s interest — however you define it — for Putin not to have committed this monstrous crime, his choice makes it easy to call him and his enablers the bad guys. Deliberately targeting civilians, sanctioning mass executions and rape, not to mention the intentional wholesale erasure of cities, is objectively evil. The Russian state tacitly admits this when it refuses to tell its own people what it is doing.

Indeed, the scope of Russia’s lies is so great that the liars are starting to say the quiet part out loud: that truth and truth-telling is an impermissible threat to the Russian regime.

Margarita Simonyan, the head of RT (formerly Russia Today), which once claimed to be a legitimate news organization, recently declared, “No big nation can exist without control over information” and that Russia should follow the Soviet or contemporary Chinese model, which would deny people freedom in “the political life of their country, in the informational life of the country.” With media voices like Simonyan, it’s no wonder Putin allegedly polls well in Russia.

There’s equal clarity for the United States. I think the realist case for doing everything possible to assure a Russian defeat is obvious. It is Russian policy to undermine our interests and the interests of our allies around the world.

But there’s a deeper moral realism involved. In the 1990s, we pushed Ukraine to relinquish its nuclear weapons in exchange for security guarantees. In 2005, a bipartisan effort resulted in Ukraine

destroying vast amounts of its conventional weapons, on the assumption those security guarantees would be honored. In other words, we told them we’d have their back.

Putin said those guarantees — which Russia signed on to — were null and void because the Ukrainian Euro-maidan protests in 2013 ushered in a new Ukrainian state. Whether you buy that garbage is immaterial, Putin’s betrayal of his commitments doesn’t release us from ours. And it is in our interest to be seen as a nation that honors its commitments.

None of this is to say we should send our own troops into Ukraine — not that we wouldn’t be morally justified. Igniting a direct war between two nuclear superpowers is a bad idea. Besides, Ukraine is asking for the modern equivalent of the arsenal of democracy, and we should give it to them, fast. Because Putin is now doubling down on his crimes in eastern Ukraine just to save face. It’s not in our interest that he succeed.

And, as the bad guy, he deserves to lose.

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Reading Biden’s rating right now

By Jonathan Bernstein
Bloomberg Opinion

This is a big week for President Joe Biden. For months, he’s had the second-worst approval rating of any polling-era president at the same point in their presidencies, trailing only Donald Trump. This week, he has passed Jimmy Carter. Within the next month, he’ll likely move ahead of Gerald Ford.

Yes, those are three of the four sitting presidents (along with George H.W. Bush) to lose a presidential election during the polling era. So maybe not that big a week.

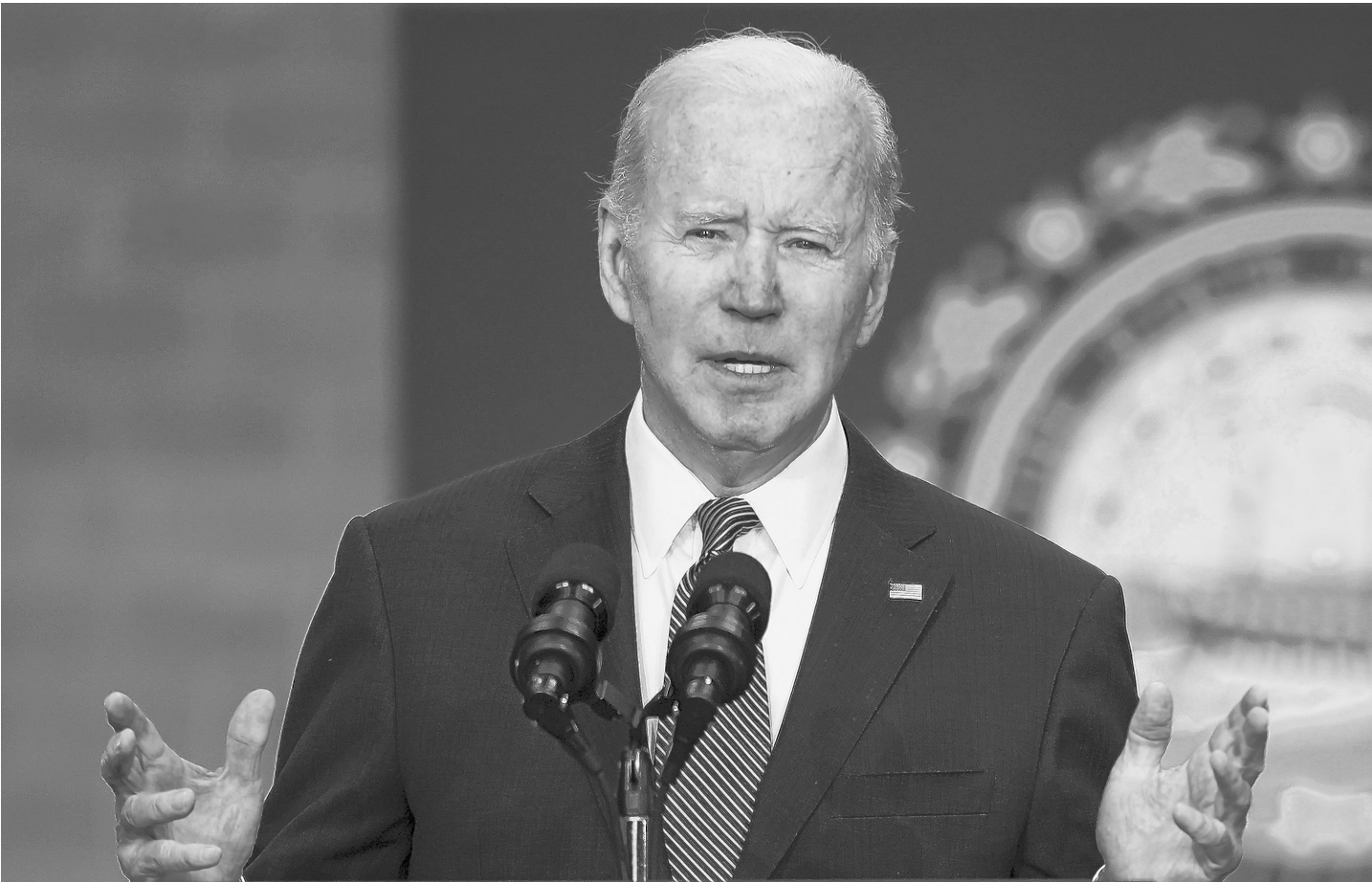
Biden began his presidency with a period of unusual approval stability, and he may have entered into a second such stretch this year. His approval rating was at 41.9% on Jan. 20, marking the end of his first year in office. It’s 41.8%, as I write this, and he’s been within a percentage point of where he is now on almost every day over the last three months. That Jan. 20 date also marked the peak of the omicron wave.

It’s possible to look at the day-to-day approval chart (at FiveThirtyEight) and see Biden hit bottom soon after, with his all-time low point of 40.4% at the end of February. His numbers improved as the pandemic eased — only to be hit again by the big surge in gasoline prices in March that he’s slowly recovering from as prices moderate. The numbers are compatible with that interpretation ... but they’re also compatible with the view that he’s just held steady over the last three months and any fluctuations are just statistical noise.

To put this another way: It’s possible that Biden’s low approval is soft, and that a few months of good news about the pandemic and inflation could produce a solid rally, meaning he would no longer be a major drag on Democratic candidates this fall. But it’s also possible that opposition has hardened, and that he’s unlikely to rally even with a run of positive news.

The same is true on the downside. So far, nothing has pushed Biden below the 40% mark that four of his 13 predecessors had reached at this point in their presidencies and that three others would hit before the end of their first two years in office. Maybe this line will hold, even if there’s further bad news — and maybe Biden is just as much at risk of reaching the 30s or worse as all presidents have been.

Quite a few political scientists believe that approval ratings are fated to wind up



Since the first anniversary of his inauguration, President Joe Biden’s approval rating has been hovering around 42%. **PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP**

in a relatively narrow range during this period of intense partisanship. I’m among what I think is the minority who think very high and very low approval ratings are still possible.

Worth noting: Survey respondents said, by wide margins, that they would be happy to pay more for gasoline in order to support Ukraine and punish Russia. Yet it appears likely that Biden’s approval numbers fell when gas spiked in early March, and recovered as gas prices moderated over the last five weeks (though they are still very high). Again, the changes aren’t large enough to prove anything, but this certainly appears to be an example of the finding that people aren’t good at predicting their own reactions to potential news events.

That’s something to take into consideration when it comes to other areas as well. People have all sorts of things they might say they want to do about inflation, but if

inflation recedes they’ll be more favorable toward Biden regardless of whether he followed their policy preferences or not, and whatever they predicted about their own reactions to hypothetical scenarios.

The same is true of the pandemic. People may say they want to keep or eliminate mask mandates or anything else, but it’s more likely that outcomes — case counts, hospitalizations, deaths — determine whether people think Biden has done a good job or a bad job in dealing with the coronavirus. That’s not always true of every voter and every policy question. But overall it is outcomes that heavily influence presidential popularity.

To be sure: Lots of things, whether it’s a policy position or the ability to give a good speech or how well this or that government agency functions, have the potential to affect presidential popularity at the margins. And in many cases those are the

things under the control of the president, whereas many big-picture outcomes may be far harder to influence.

So, all else equal, it makes sense for presidents to tout their accomplishments, give speeches, emphasize their popular policies and stay relatively quiet about their unpopular ones. We tend to spend plenty of time checking on how the president is doing on such things because, again, they’re what the White House can usually control.

But overall? Tell me what’s going to happen with the pandemic and with the economy — including inflation — over the next six months, and then over those same months two years from now, and I’ll give you a surprisingly accurate guess as to how Democrats will do in November and in the 2024 election.

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Canada’s conservatives can say YIMBY. Why can’t America’s?

By Matthew Yglesias
Bloomberg Opinion

Scott Aitchison is one of several politicians in the running to lead Canada’s opposition Conservative Party. And one of his big ideas is something that would never fly — but should — in America’s opposition Republican Party: federal action to deregulate the housing sector.

“We are facing a housing crisis in Canada,” Aitchison tweeted recently. “We need URGENT action to fix this mess. It’s time for big cities to say YES in my backyard to more housing.”

Aitchison is not alone on the Canadian right. Conservative MP Raquel Dancho questioned the incumbent housing minister on land use regulation in Parliament on April 5, while interim party leader Candice Bergen said two days later: “Canada’s housing crisis can’t be left up to municipalities to solve on their own. We need federal leadership to build more supply.”

Aitchison’s analysis is correct — and the party’s prescription is a good one.

Left to their own devices, localities tend to overweigh purely local interests in their land-use planning and don’t approve enough new homes. This may help them avoid costs such as traffic jams and school crowding, but it imposes large economic costs on nonresidents. Meanwhile, people who don’t move to town because there aren’t enough new homes don’t just vanish — they live elsewhere, which makes the

savings in terms of infrastructure illusory.

In Canada, as in the U.S., the federal government finances a fair amount of local government activity. So it makes sense to tie funding to new housing permits. If towns and cities want money for infrastructure, they need to do their share to add to the national housing supply.

In the U.S., this is considered a daring left-wing idea. Its main proponents in congress are Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., and Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., whose 2019 HOME Act would tie Community Development Block Grant and Surface Transportation Block Grant money to land-use reforms. President Joe Biden endorsed a version of this approach during his campaign, and at one point it was part of his “Build Back Better” proposal. But it was dropped in congressional negotiations.

And it’s been the subject of a yearslong fearmongering campaign from the right. Former President Donald Trump spent much of the 2020 campaign warning that Booker had a plan to “abolish the suburbs.” Earlier this month, while Canada’s conservatives were pushing more density, Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., went on Fox News to complain that Democrats “want to make us all poor. They want to make you live in downtown areas, and high-rise buildings, and walk to work or take the subway or ride an electric scooter, or whatever it is that Pete Buttigieg takes to work.”

In terms of the culture war, it’s easy to see where Cotton is coming from. Amer-

ican cities are full of Black people, immigrants, LGBTQ people and people who like art galleries and weird food. To many people of a conservative temperament, that’s not very appealing.

On the economics, however, Cotton could learn a lot from his conservative friends north of the border. An apartment building is a more efficient use of land and material than a detached single-family home.

Consider an analogy: Walmart’s large and efficient supply chain helps it offer “always low prices,” which are appealing to lower-income people. But no self-respecting Republican would think that allowing Walmart to exist makes people poor. Walmart has a downscale customer base, so banning Walmart would be bad for low-income people. And ultimately it would be bad for everyone — even fancy city snobs benefit in the long run from the existence of efficient retail operations that raise productivity.

By the same token, across large swaths of America — not just big cities like New York and Los Angeles, but college towns and places near mountains or beaches — land is more expensive than it is in Arkansas. Prohibiting the use of productivity-enhancing building types — duplexes, rowhouses, small apartments and, yes, the dread high-rise — in those places makes the country as a whole poorer.

That’s not a question of what kind of lifestyle people ought to prefer, or about

whether city dwellers or rural folks are more virtuous. It’s basic economics. And with housing accounting for more than one-third of household consumption spending, regulatory burdens on the housing sector are a huge deal.

Not so long ago, this was conventional wisdom on the right: The reason New York and California were so expensive and losing people was because their economies were so overregulated. It’s an idea articulated years ago by conservative Harvard economist Edward Glaeser.

It used to be difficult to get progressive-minded people interested in zoning reform, because talking about the virtues of deregulation smacked of right-wing politics and neoliberalism. Books such as “Segregation by Design” by University of California, Merced, political scientist Jessica Trounstein, which explore the role of overregulation in promoting racial inequality, have been useful in getting the left interested in the topic. Unfortunately, political entrepreneurs like Trump and Cotton have embraced the notion that if Booker and Clyburn think something is good for racial justice, they ought to be against it — even if the thing in question is good old-fashioned free market economics.

That’s the kind of thinking that poisons America’s political system and hurts the U.S. economy.

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OBITUARIES

Bobo, Rev. Waltena



Rev. Waltena Bobo, 73, of Bloomfield, beloved wife for 58 years of Harry Clyde Bobo, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at St. Francis Hospital. Born in Greenville, SC on August 19, 1948, daughter of the late Walter Bates and Cornelia (Drummond) Woody, she was raised in Greenville, SC and had lived in Hartford for many years before moving to Bloomfield 24 years ago. Besides her husband, she leaves to mourn her passing a daughter, Auletta Rochelle Bobo of Bloomfield; a son, Clyde Bernard Bobo of Willimantic; a brother, Charles E. Bates and his wife Gail of Bloomfield; six grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; and a host of foster children, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by a sister, Juanita Bates. Her family will receive friends on Saturday, April 23, 10-11 a.m., followed by a Homegoing Service at 11 a.m., at The First Cathedral, 1151 Blue Hills Ave., Bloomfield. Burial will follow in Mountain View Cemetery, Bloomfield. Carmon Windsor Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. For online condolences and to view the complete obituary, please visit, www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



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Hicks, Bryan W.



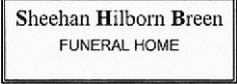
Bryan William Hicks, 57, of Newington went to be with his sweet Lord on Monday, April 18, 2022 after a long battle with metastatic melanoma. Bryan was born on November 11, 1964 to the late Norman "Skip" and Elaine Hicks. He worked most of his life in the automotive industry but his life's calling was to be the rock of the Hicks family. He leaves his loving siblings, Dale and Tracy, who cared for him at home throughout this long journey. He also leaves his niece Harleigh and her father Dane Wider; goddaughter Nicole McCormack; and many lifelong friends, and family. Calling hours will be held Friday, April 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. followed by a prayer service at the Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Avenue, Newington. Burial will be private. In Bryan's memory: choose kindness, give quietly & generously, rescue a pet, donate blood, and most importantly, love one another as He has loved you. To share a condolence with his family, please visit www.newingtonmemorial.com.



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McGovern, William P.

William P. McGovern, 82, of West Hartford, passed away on Sunday, April 17, 2022, after a period of declining health. He was the son of the late Muriel and Terrence McGovern. Born December 6, 1939, in Hartford, CT, he was a lifelong resident of West Hartford. Bill retired from the State of Connecticut and enjoyed music, playing his records and boating. His knowledge of records and music was extensive and remarkable. He enjoyed sharing this enthusiasm to the delight of family and friends. Bill is survived by his siblings: Brian McGovern and Bonnie Bowes of West Hartford, Marie Hilliard and her husband Douglas of Westfield, MA, and Joan Barrieau and her husband Gerard of West Hartford. He also leaves his nephews and niece: Gib Barrieau and his children, Lulu and Max of West Hartford, Morgan Barrieau, wife Danielle and daughter, Whitley of Boston, MA, and Jackie Iacovazzi, her husband Drew and daughter, Paige of West Hartford. The McGovern family wishes to extend their heartfelt thanks to Richard and all the caregivers at Hughes Health and Rehab for their time, kindness and compassion. Funeral Services were private. Memorial donations in William's name can be directed to the CT Humane Society. Online condolences may be made at www.SheehanHilbornBreen.com.



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Picard, Jr., Onezime Joseph



Onezime (Ozzie) Joseph Picard, Jr., of Torrington, CT passed away on April 8, 2022. Ozzie was born in Caswell, Maine on November 28, 1937, the ninth child of eleven children born to the late Onezime and Helen (Lavioe) Picard. While dancing the night away at the French Club in New Britain, CT, he met Judy Shearer. A year later, on September 5, 1964, Ozzie and Judy were married in Unionville, CT. They raised their children in Wolcott and resided most recently in Torrington, CT. It was always important that he did his best for his family and encouraged them to put one foot in front of the other. Ozzie loved his 1964 Mustang and enjoyed camping, fishing, throwing horseshoes, and bowling. He was an avid bowler and card player. He enjoyed time with family including his children and grandchildren. Ozzie retired in 1999 after 20 plus years of service at Cly-Del Manufacturing in Waterbury, CT. He is survived by his loving wife, Judith (Shearer) Picard, three children, Onezime Picard III and his wife Gwen Spencer, Alan Picard, and Theresa (Picard) Campanelli, and his five grandchildren, Travis Campanelli, Tricia Campanelli, Ashley Picard, Alex Picard, and Robert Picard. The Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated Friday, April 22, 2022 at 10:00am in the Church of St. Mary Star of the Sea, Unionville. Arrangements are being handled by The Ahern Funeral Homes, Inc., www.ahernfuneralhome.com.

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Robida, Elizabeth "Betty Jo" (Mills)

Elizabeth (Bette Jo) Robida, 81, of Moodus, beloved wife of William J. Robida, Sr. passed peacefully at Middlesex Hospital on Monday April 18th after suffering a stroke. Bette Jo was born in Oxford Maine, daughter of the late Frank and Stella (Baxter) Mills. Bette Jo and Bill married in 1959 and lovingly raised their three children and centered their lives on their family and loved ones. For 37 years Bette Jo hosted weekly Wednesday Night dinners for her extended family to keep the family close. She was employed as a bookkeeper for decades with Nichols Bus Service prior to her retirement. Bette Jo enjoyed bowling, visiting with friends and family, doing needlepoint and hosting Holidays for the family. She spent many hours with her husband meticulously caring for their property. Besides her husband Bill, Bette Jo is survived by two daughters, Vickie Lynch and her husband Jim, Debbie Shumbo and her husband Stan, a son, Bill Robida, Jr. and his wife Liz, six grandchildren, Abbey Lynch, Kyle Josephs, Brandon Shumbo, Cailyn Tischbein, Jack Beman, and Kristy Robida, a great grandchild, Mathew Beman, two sisters Romalea Burg of Marlborough, CT and Teresa Patch of Denver, CO; brother, Joseph Mills of Cape Coral, FL, and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a brother, Frank Mills, III. Bette Jo was deeply loved and will be truly missed by many. A funeral liturgy will be held Monday, April 25th at 10 a.m. at Saint Bridget of Kildare Church, 75 Moodus Leesville Road, Moodus. Burial will follow in Saint Bridget of Kildare Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to East Haddam Food Bank, c/o East Haddam Youth & Family Services, P.O. Box 572, Moodus, CT, 06469 and to East Haddam Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 17, Moodus, CT, 06469. To share memories or express condolences online please visit www.biegafuneralhome.com.

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Vukasinovic, George



George "Dura" Vukasinovic, 91, of Southington, known to his family and friends as Georgie, passed away surrounded by his family on Monday, April 18, 2022. He was the loving husband of the late Maria Olivia (Carrion) Vukasinovic. Born May 10, 1930 in Grmusa, Yugoslavia. He was the son of the late Milosh and Sava

Vukasinovic. George owned and operated G.V. Machine Co., Inc. for 38 years in Southington. One of his favorite pastimes was spending time with his beloved family. He also loved to travel and watch wrestling with his grandchildren. He leaves his four children, Cynthia Kelleher and husband John of Avon, Vesna Violette and husband Henry of Southington, Marianne Slade of Southington and Nick Vukasinovic of AZ; seven grandchildren, Philip, Andrea, Matthew, Rebecca, Mallory, Paul and Morgan; four great-grandchildren, Samuel, Mia, Eloise, and Adelaide. He also leaves his sister-in-law, Betty Stewart of Plantsville and two nephews, Jeremiah and Jonathan. Our hearts go with him as he journeys to China, as he always told his family and friends would be his final destination. A funeral Service will be held on Saturday, April 23rd at 10:30 a.m. at the DellaVecchia Funeral Home, 211 N. Main St., Southington. Burial will follow at St. Thomas Cemetery. Calling hours will be Friday from 4-7 p.m. For online condolences and directions please visit, www.dellavecchiasouthington.com

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Wardell, Thomas (Lee)

Thomas Lee Wardell, born December 22, 1947 died Friday March 18, 2022 after a short and courageous battle with lung cancer. Beloved husband of Anita (Augsburger) Wardell, proud father of two daughters, Jennifer Edmonds (husband Joshua) of Wellesley, MA and Elizabeth Kaplan (husband Michael) of Suffield, CT; wonderful grandfather to his 4 granddaughters, Zoe and Phoebe Kaplan and Courtney and Alysse Edmonds. Memorial donations can be made in his honor to the First Church of Christ Congregational, 81 High Street, Suffield, CT 06078 or to Friends of the Farm at Hilltop, PO Box 372, Suffield, CT 06078. Please join the Wardell family in honoring his truly remarkable life with a Memorial Service at 11am on April 23, 2022 at the First Church of Christ Congregational in Suffield, CT. For online condolences please visit: www.SuffieldFuneralHome.com.

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Wardell, Thomas L.

Thomas Lee Wardell, born December 22, 1947 died Friday March 18, 2022 after a short and courageous battle with lung cancer. Beloved husband of Anita (Augsburger) Wardell, proud father of two daughters, Jennifer Edmonds (husband Joshua) of Wellesley, MA and Elizabeth Kaplan (husband Michael) of Suffield, CT; wonderful grandfather to his 4 granddaughters, Zoe and Phoebe Kaplan and Courtney and Alysse Edmonds. Memorial donations can be made in his honor to the First Church of Christ Congregational, 81 High Street, Suffield, CT 06078 or to Friends of the Farm at Hilltop, PO Box 372, Suffield, CT 06078. Please join the Wardell family in honoring his truly remarkable life with a Memorial Service at 11am on April 23, 2022 at the First Church of Christ Congregational in Suffield, CT. For online condolences please visit: www.SuffieldFuneralHome.com.

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‘Supporting trans youth ... is literally lifesaving’

LGBTQ allies applaud Hartford Public Schools amid nurse, threats investigations

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

LGBTQ community members and activists commended Hartford Public Schools officials during Tuesday night’s Board of Education meeting for the district’s handling

of a personnel matter involving a school nurse placed on administrative leave for online comments about LGBTQ students. “I’m here today not to complain about anything, I wanted to say thank you,” said Lindsey Pasquale, an organizer with PFLAG Hartford,

an LGBTQ advocacy group. “I usually come to these things to like, bully the school administration,” said Mel Cordner, founding director of Q Plus. “But today ... I’m here to say thank you for doing what you should be doing, supporting and protecting the trans youth in our schools.” Tuesday’s meeting was the board’s first since a school nurse was placed on administrative leave

for what the district described as inappropriate comments about LGBTQ students posted using the nurse’s personal Facebook account. In a March 28 letter to the school community, Superintendent Leslie Torres-Rodriguez said the comments described private and personal details about a specific student. “The manner in which the comments were shared, and the

values they express, are totally inconsistent with what we stand for,” Torres-Rodriguez said. The incident attracted a wide range of media attention, extending from local outlets to The Daily Mail, a British newspaper. An article also appeared in The Blaze, a conservative online media outlet. District officials have since

Turn to Allies, Page 2

What happens in Vegas ...

Breeze Airways pushes fast-paced expansion at Bradley International Airport

By Kenneth R. Gosselin
Hartford Courant

WINDSOR LOCKS — As Breeze Airways on Wednesday announced adding an 11th nonstop route in a fast-paced expansion at Bradley International Airport, the CEO of the low-fare airline said the elimination of the federal mask mandate will further the appetite for air travel that nosedived in the thick of the pandemic.

“I was actually on a flight last night and pretty much, 80, 90% of the people weren’t wearing masks,” Breeze CEO and founder David Neeleman said in an interview. “Particularly for families that have young children, the stress of having to keep a mask on, just kept a lot of people from traveling.”

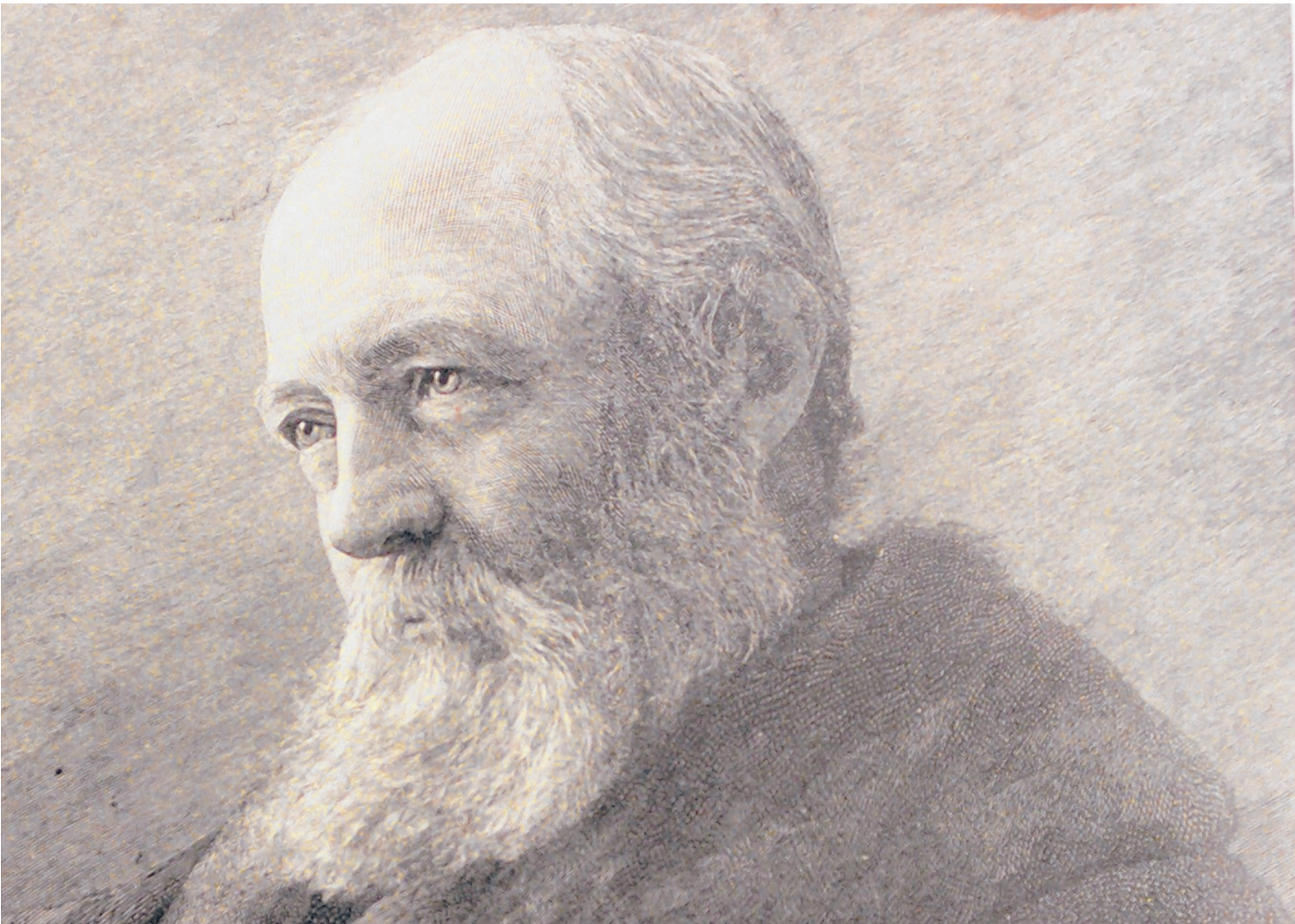
Breeze announced Wednesday that it will launch nonstop service to Las Vegas beginning Sept. 7 and will operate Wednesday and Saturday. The destination is the seventh nonstop route added by Breeze this year at Bradley.

Round-trip fares to Las Vegas range from introductory, one-way fares that start at \$149 to \$249 for first class, according to the airline. Introductory fares must be purchased by April 26 for travel by Nov. 15, the airline said.

Only one other airline, discount carrier JetBlue, flies to Las Vegas out of Bradley, three days a week.

The federal mask mandate for airplanes, trains and buses was struck down this week by a Florida judge, who ruled the Centers of Disease Control and Preven-

Turn to Airport, Page 2



Known as a founder of American landscape architecture, a conservationist and creator of major urban parks, Frederick Law Olmsted was born in Hartford in 1822. His father and a trip to Europe influenced Olmsted’s career path as a writer and editor and later as a landscape architect, eventually working as the superintendent of Central Park and later as that park’s architect-in-chief. In Connecticut, Olmsted made his mark at Walnut Hill Park in New Britain, Beardsley Park in Bridgeport and the Connecticut State House. **COURANT FILE**

Exhibit among events spotlighting world famous landscape architect

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Pastoral scenes from his Connecticut boyhood inspired Frederick Law Olmsted’s vision of public space as a calming and rejuvenating “third place” apart from home and work. “My earliest special education began with a long, pleasing series of object lessons in the scenery of

the Connecticut Valley — the earliest of them from the pommel of my father’s saddle,” Olmsted, born in Hartford on April 26, 1822, wrote. “I know of no better primary school of park-making in all the world.” To honor the father of landscape architecture on his 200th birthday, the Hartford Public Library’s History Center is hosting an exhibit titled, “Returning

Home to Hartford — Frederick Law Olmsted: Landscapes for the Public Good.” Focused on Olmsted’s contributions to the city’s park system, the display of photographs and drawings opened this week on the third floor of the main library, 500 Main St., and is to run through June 9. An opening program featuring John Alexopoulos, associate professor of landscape architec-

ture at UConn, is set for Thursday from 4-6 p.m. The exhibit is among many events this year marking Olmsted’s legacy, which also includes the co-design of New York City’s Central Park, Walnut Hill Park in New Britain, Seaside Park in Bridgeport, the flowing park system in Boston known as the

Turn to Architect, Page 2

From dumpster to display

Works of Francis Hines will be on exhibit at Mattatuck Museum

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

Five Francis Hines artworks that were part of a stash rescued in 2017 from a dumpster in Watertown will be on exhibit April 22 to June 15 at the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury. The trove of paintings, drawings and sculptures were found by George Martin of Naugatuck while “picking” on the grounds of a barn that had recently been sold. He told his friend, Jared Whipple of Waterbury, about them. Whipple

retrieved the works, hoping to find out more about them. Through years of research, Whipple determined that “F Hines,” the signature on the paintings, was Francis Hines (1920-2016), an abstract expressionist who painted in New York City and Watertown. He was known for his “wrapping” style similar to Christo. He wrapped the Washington Square Arch in 1980. Elements of the collection was exhibited in September 2021 at the Mattatuck. The latest exhibit, titled “Discovering New York’s Wrapper: The Art of Francis Hines,” will feature a complete series of five studies created for a Union Square Park public installation created by Hines. One of this series was shown

at the museum in an exhibit in 2021, and the other four were not. Eventually, Whipple’s research led them to art historian and appraiser Peter Hastings Falk, who says that Hines is “an artist who simply cannot slip through the cracks of art history forever.” “Hines was unique among American artists because his abstract sculptures and paintings were the first to express the dynamic energy that occurs within the tension of materials under stress. Hines’ wrapping style differed significantly from that of his more well-known peer, Christo, and he was the only artist to ever wrap buildings and monuments in

Turn to Exhibit, Page 3

RENTSCHLER FIELD REDEVELOPMENT

Builder predicts 2,000 jobs, \$4 million in new taxes for East Hartford

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

With a major municipal review completed, East Hartford officials are hoping to see construction begin on the redevelopment of Rentschler Field as soon as this fall. Raytheon Technologies last year agreed to sell the old airfield to National Development, which this month won city approval of its master plan to build on the 300

acres. “I’m told concrete could begin to be poured in October,” Mayor Michael Walsh said Wednesday. “National Development is a known developer to Raytheon and has been pleased with its experience with East Hartford.” Developers predict the project will bring hundreds of construction jobs for more than a year, and ultimately up to 2,000 permanent

Turn to Jobs, Page 2

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New Britain man charged with armed robbery

By Taylor Hartz
Hartford Courant

A New Britain man was charged Tuesday for his alleged role in an armed robbery in Farmington in February, police said.

Gilberto DeLeon, 56, is charged with first-degree robbery, conspiracy to commit first-degree robbery and sixth-degree larceny, according to the Farmington Police Department.

Police allege that DeLeon was one of two-masked robbers who, armed with a handgun, demanded cash and merchandise from a worker at Scott's Village Mobil Gas Station at 843 Farmington Ave. the night of Feb. 27.

The department has identified two other suspects involved in the robbery and expect to make additional arrests, police said.

DeLeon is being held in lieu of \$500,000 bail and is scheduled to appear in court in Hartford on Wednesday.

Police: Man charged with robbing same bank he robbed 5 years ago

By Taylor Hartz
Hartford Courant

A man who allegedly robbed a Southington bank during last year's Apple Harvest Festival — after being convicted of robbing that same bank five years before — was charged earlier this month while in court for other charges, police said.

David Latino, 50, of Sandra Lane, Plantsville, was arrested on a warrant while appearing in New Britain Superior Court on April 7 and charged with second-degree robbery and fifth-degree larceny, according to the Southington Police Department.

Latino allegedly entered the TD Bank at 121 Main St. during the town's Apple Harvest Festival at about 12:15 p.m. on Oct. 8, 2021 and handed a threatening note to the bank teller, police said.

He took an unknown amount of cash and then ran toward Town Hall, eventually escaping police, leading multiple schools and learning centers in the area to enter lockdown.

During their investigation, multi-

ple residents called police to identify Latino as the robber, police said. DNA evidence and cellphone records also helped investigators connect Latino to the robbery, police said.

Latino was convicted in 2016 of robbing the same TD Bank, police said.

Court records show that he was sentenced in January 2018 to 731 days in jail and two years of special parole after being found guilty of third-degree robbery, stemming from an incident in Southington on Dec. 12, 2016.

He has other cases pending in Connecticut criminal court, including charges of threatening, assault and breach of peace in Waterbury and second-degree kidnapping and resisting arrest in Newington, records show.

He has been held at the Hartford Correctional Center since Oct. 15, 2021 in lieu of a \$245,000 bond, according to the state Department of Correction.

He is scheduled to appear in court next on May 10 in New Britain, court records show.

Allies

from Page 1

received a wave of violent threats, now under investigation by Hartford police, which included disturbing calls and emails calling for their lives. Torres-Rodriguez said Tuesday that the majority of threats have been directed toward her.

The threats appear to stem from inaccurate interpretations of the nurse's comments, which have led to false allegations that Hartford school staff is indoctrinating students or providing puberty-blocking hormone inhibitors without parental consent.

According to district policy, Hartford school staff are prohibited from administering medication to students without the authorization of a medical provider and the written consent of a parent or guardian.

"Administering medication without this authorization would be both a violation of our policies, and it's also illegal," Torres-Rodriguez said.

In spite of the threats, Torres-Rodriguez insisted that the district's commitment to providing a safe, inclusive environment for students regardless of identity is unwavering.

"I know that there is no doubt in my mind, and there is no doubt in my heart, that we will continue to dedicate our lives to our students, and that there is nothing more important to us than seeing them succeed," Torres-Rodriguez said. "And we will be there for each and every one of our students, even through the struggles."

"This board, and I, and our staff will continue to focus on becoming an antiracist and an anti-bias organization. That work is actually never ending," she said.

That work was applauded by several who spoke Tuesday night.

Jennifer Quaye-Hudson, director of external affairs for Connecticut Voices for Children, highlighted the organization's 2018 report on youth identity development, which found that adolescence is a critical time for the development of gender identity.

But young people often lack supportive environments to develop and express their orientations safely. In 2014, more

than half of Connecticut queer youth reported experiencing verbal harassment at school, Quaye-Hudson said. Sixteen percent reported being physically harassed. Meanwhile, sexual orientation is one of several other primary risk factors for youth homelessness.

Support for transgender youth is particularly crucial, as the Trevor Project's 2021 survey on LGBTQ youth mental health found that more than half of transgender and nonbinary youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the previous 12 months.

Ace Ricker, a transgender man and Q Plus board member, said he sees himself in those statistics.

"The harassment, and the lack of education to staff and teachers and students, caused a lot of trauma," Ricker said. "I applaud the work you're doing. Because of the struggles I faced, I don't any of these young kids to have to deal with those kinds of struggles."

Cordner, the Q Plus founding director, said that the suicide risk for transgender youth can be virtually eliminated, so long as young people have at least one supportive adult in their lives.

"Supporting trans youth is super-important, and literally lifesaving," Cordner said.

Ricker and other speakers encouraged the Hartford school board to pursue education and trainings for students and staff, and strengthen policies around protecting transgender and nonbinary youth.

Tuesday's board meeting did include first reading on a new curricular exemption policy, which allows parents to opt out of lessons on certain sensitive material.

The policy would expand the current list of permitted exemptions to include substance abuse education, bilingual education and for religious or medical purposes.

Board members did not discuss the policy, but Torres-Rodriguez said it serves as an example of the strong partnership between the district and families.

"It is, and it will continue to be, our mission to do right by each and every one of our students. We know that we need the support of our families to accomplish that," Torres-Rodriguez said.

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Federal authorities charge Hartford man with drug dealing, gun crimes

By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

A federal grand jury has indicted 26-year-old Traevaughnn Morrison of Hartford for drug and gun crimes.

Federal prosecutors said said that on April 5, members of a federal drug task force made undercover purchases of fentanyl and crack cocaine from Morrison in Bristol.

After the drug sales, investigators followed Morrison as he drove to a condominium parking lot, where he was arrested.

During a search of the car, authorities allegedly found fentanyl, crack cocaine and a Polymer handgun known as a "ghost gun" manufactured on a hi-tech copy machine, along with an extended magazine loaded with ammunition, federal prosecutors said.

The prosecutors said Morrison has a criminal record that includes felony drug offenses. It is a violation of federal law for a person previously convicted of a felony offense to possess a firearm or ammunition that has moved in interstate or foreign commerce.

The indictment charges Morrison with one count of possession with intent to distribute, and distribution of, cocaine base and fentanyl, which, if convicted, carries a maximum prison term of 20 years; one count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, which carries a possible mandatory prison term of at least five years; and one count of unlawful possession of ammunition by a felon, which carries a maximum possible prison of imprisonment of 10 years.

Morrison has been detained since his arrest.

Airport

from Page 1

tion did not have the authority to impose such a mandate. The Biden Administration is considering an appeal.

Soaring fuel prices are pushing fares higher throughout the airline industry, however, Neeleman said.

"Fares are high because of fuel prices, so we will keep an eye on demand and make sure we don't price ourselves out of the market," Neeleman said. Every time you raise a fare, you have to watch demand because, at some point, people are going to say that's too expensive, we can't afford it."

Bloomberg News reported that

domestic, round-trip flights cost an average of \$300 in late March, citing travel company Hopper. The fares were up 36% from the start of 2022 and nearly in line with pre-pandemic levels in 2019, Bloomberg reported.

Higher air fares come on top of higher priced meals, car rentals and hotels, Neeleman said. "Everything is more expensive."

So far, however, Neeleman said, "Demand is strong."

Neeleman said a resolution to soaring fuel prices is "more geopolitical. If you have a resolution in Ukraine, that's going to have a bigger effect than what the Biden Administration can do."

Breeze's announcement Wednesday about the new route at Bradley was paired with the roll-out of

a major expansion at Westchester County Airport just over the Connecticut border in White Plains, NY.

When asked, Neeleman said Breeze was not considering serving Tweed-New Haven Airport, which had been suggested at a press conference at the airport earlier this year.

"We're not, not now," Neeleman said. "We're sticking with Westchester and Hartford. It might be a little redundant."

Last month, Breeze announced six new, nonstop destinations at Bradley: Nashville, Tenn.; Akron/Canton, Ohio; Savannah, Georgia; Richmond, Virginia, and Jacksonville and Sarasota/Bradenton, Florida.

All but Nashville — currently

served by Southwest Airlines — were new nonstop routes for Bradley.

All the new Breeze routes announced last month will begin flying June 3, with the exception of Sarasota/Bradenton, which launches on June 4.

Breeze currently provides service from Bradley to Columbus, Ohio; Norfolk, Virginia; Pittsburgh and Charleston, S.C.

The low-fare airline also plans to operate a base at Bradley in June, eventually creating more than 200 jobs.

Kevin A. Dillon, executive director of the Connecticut Airport Authority, which oversees operations at Bradley, said the addition of another air carrier to Las Vegas will strengthen the airport's service to

the West Coast.

"With this addition, Breeze now offers eleven nonstop destinations from Bradley thus giving our passengers tremendous destination options," Dillon said, in a statement. "It remains a privilege to continue partnering in the significant success and expansion of the airline, and we sincerely appreciate the commitment to our community."

Breeze, a Salt Lake City-based startup airline, first launched at Bradley in June 2021. The airline was founded with the strategy of offering "point to point" service from smaller, secondary airports.

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Architect

from Page 1

Emerald Necklace and many other parks, college campuses, cemeteries and private grounds throughout the nation.

Olmsted's sons carried on his work and the family firm's credits in Hartford include Goodwin Park, Keney Park, Pope Park and Riverside Park, as well as grounds of the Institute of Living and Trinity College.

"Frederick Law Olmsted was a pioneer in urban park design and this exhibit highlights the many contributions he made to the City of Hartford," the public library's executive director of culture and communication, Brenda Miller, said. "He was born here and is buried here and we embrace him as our Hartford story."

Son of a successful dry goods merchant, Olmsted tried his hand as a seaman, farmer and writer before coming into park design amid the grime and sprawl of the industrial revolution.

In 1850, a walking tour and visit to an English park was to prove life-changing, according to Olmsted 200, a project of the Washington, D.C.-based National Association for Olmsted Parks. Birkenhead Park in Liverpool was a rare public park, open to all, and Olmsted concluded that park access should be a right of all Americans.

"I was ready to admit," he wrote, "that in democratic America there was nothing to be thought of as comparable to this People's Garden."

A style of gentle contours with broad expanses of grass and tree groves was basic to Olmsted's

designs, "which he intended to serve as the setting for 'unconscious or indirect recreation,'" Olmsted scholar Charles E. Beveridge said in an interview with The Courant in 2003.

"The enjoyment of scenery," Olmsted wrote, "employs the mind without fatigue and yet exercises it, tranquilizes it and yet enlivens it; and thus, through the influence of the mind over the body, gives the effect of refreshing rest and reinvigoration of the whole system."

Central to Olmsted's philosophy was the idea of "communitiveness," a belief that a healthy civil society brings people together in service to each other.

"Parks and landscapes have always been beautiful and restorative. But in the service of communiveness, landscape was much more," according to an article on the Olmsted 200 site. "Parks

and open spaces were essential because they allowed beleaguered city dwellers to be restored and invigorated so that they might devote themselves to the benefit and welfare of others."

Olmsted made landscape architecture a profession for the public good, New Haven-based landscape architect Oliver Gaffney said.

"He saw that there was an unmet need for public spaces," said Gaffney, treasurer of the Connecticut chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Gaffney also noted that the pandemic brought a reawakening of the value of public spaces.

Other upcoming events honoring Olmsted include a presentation hosted by Connecticut Landmarks titled, "Frederick Law Olmsted's 200th: A Hartford Memorial." Set for Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the event

includes talks at the Isham-Terry House, a tribute at the Keney Clock Tower and a memorial at Olmsted's burial site in Old North Cemetery.

Preservation Connecticut and the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office have teamed up to study Olmsted's heritage in the state. The aim is to document about 150 Olmsted projects across Connecticut and write a detailed account of the Olmsted firm's origins and ongoing relationship with the state. The study is to be available online. Also, check preservationct.org/olmsted for a schedule of lectures and tours.

The Olmsted Legacy Trail (olmstedlegacytrail.com) maps out the work of the man and his firm throughout Connecticut.

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Jobs

from Page 1

jobs at a massive logistics center and accompanying high-tech research and development buildings.

The planning and zoning commission this month unanimously approved National Development's plan to create two mega-warehouses of more than 1 million square feet each on the former airfield.

National Development isn't publicly naming the two prospective tenants it's negotiating with, but said they are well-known industry leaders drawn partly by the site's proximity to I-84 and I-91.

"Access to a regional highway network is exceptional. Being

able to get on and off the highway without going through neighborhoods is the gold standard," Ed Marsteiner, manager partner of National Development, told city planners.

The two warehouse buildings will take up a combined 2.5 million square feet of space, and the property will have also have two 100,000-square-foot buildings for research and development, he said.

"The (Greater Hartford) workforce is also a huge benefit. It's hard to find talented employees today, and there are going to be 1,800 to 2,000 jobs created out of the projects here," he said.

Construction of the warehouses will take about a year and a half, and each one will require 300 to 400 construction workers, Marsteiner said. When it's fully built out, the project will gener-

ate about \$4 million a year in new taxes, he estimated.

Marsteiner said National Development's Forge Park in Franklin, Massachusetts, has much of what the company envisions for Rentschler.

"It's a very well-located site near a regional highway network. We developed a mix of R & D and technology buildings and logistics buildings," he said.

National Development describes Forge Park as a mixed-use project with 2.75 million square feet of commercial space, a retail center, a child care center, a hotel, a commuter rail station and residential development.

New housing on the heavily industrial East Hartford site doesn't work because of the expense of environmental remediation, according to the company.

And large-scale retail development isn't financially feasible now, even though the roughly 200,000-square-foot Cabela's currently on the Rentschler site will remain, Marsteiner said.

"Cabela's is doing well there. In the foreseeable future there's no goal of moving them along," he said. "But retail was really struggling pre-COVID, and COVID accelerated shopping at home — which further hurt the bricks and mortar retail stuff."

The region is saturated with warehouse clubs and home improvement stores, and there's little market for new office space because of the uptick in people working at home, he said. That leaves other commercial development as the best use of the sprawling Rentschler property, he said.

"The warehouse distribution

side has really taken off," he said.

The new buildings would cover about 20% of the 300 acres, with large tracts of wetlands used to shield them from the surrounding neighborhood.

"This site is incredibly well buffered from existing businesses and residents. The buildings will be a quarter to a half a mile away from the nearest businesses and residences — that's unheard of," he said.

National Development emphasized that all traffic will reach the property from East Hartford Boulevard, with no access from Brewer or Main streets.

The planning and zoning commission voted 7-0 to approve the master plan. National Development still needs to get wetlands approval as well as an OK for a detailed site plan.

CONNECTICUT



Al Basha Market and Restaurant in Manchester sells foods from several Middle Eastern countries and has a 30-seat restaurant. **SUSAN DUNNE/HARTFORD COURANT PHOTOS**

Al Basha

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

Like most restaurant owners during the pandemic, Omair Shalo saw customer visitation plummet in 2020 and 2021 at his Palestinian-Yemeni restaurant in Manchester. He didn’t want to be one of the eateries that closed forever. He had two choices. “Option One was to put in a bar. But that made no sense. Alcohol is against our religion,” said Shalo, a devout Muslim who emigrated from Nablus, in the West Bank of the Palestinian Territories, to the United States. “Option two was to take out a lot of the tables and put in a halal market. We could keep our community of customers and still have a small restaurant.” Shalo transformed his 229-seat restaurant at 397 Broad St. into a Middle Eastern food store with a 30-seat restaurant in the back. Blue Moon Mediterranean restaurant was renamed Al Basha market and restaurant and reopened in March. Outdoor seating will be added behind the shop later, he said. “It’s been really good. The business has been busy. People come from all over the state and from Massachusetts and they are so excited and happy we are here,” Shalo said. “I feel life again, to see business come back after two years. I feel that everything I did was not for nothing.” The market sells packaged foods from Palestine, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Jordan, Sudan, Syria, Turkey and other countries. Among the groceries are hard-to-find items such as maftoul, freekeh, lupini beans, shankleesh cheese, basbousa, mohalabia, sesame fudge and molokhia leaves. It also sells Middle Eastern sweets and snacks and enough medjool dates to fill a small warehouse. On the shelves behind the cash register are items such as prayer rugs, pretty Ramadan decorations, elegant teapots and teacups, hookahs, incense, flags of Middle Eastern nations, copies

Blue Moon restaurant re-imagined as a halal market, eatery combo

of the Quran and Quran holders. The restaurant, in a walled-off section with six tables, is decorated with paintings of beautiful mosques. The menu is huge for a small eating space. “It’s all the food we used to serve,” Shalo said. Appetizers, from \$5.99 to \$7.99, include hummus, baba ganoush, falafel, stuffed grape leaves, veggie skewers and other items. Entrees, which range from \$14.99 to \$19.99, are centered on chicken, beef, lamb, liver, shrimp, salmon, tilapia and Cornish hen. Palestinian dishes include shawarmas, koftahs, kebabs, farouj chicken, chicken tawouk, gyros, lamb chops and musakhan rolls. Yemeni entrees, for \$14.99 to \$16.99, are mandi lamb and chicken, haneeth lamb and chicken, and kabsa lamb and chicken. An American portion of the menu offers burgers, from \$6.99 to \$8.99, in beef, chicken, vegetarian, falafel, shrimp, tilapia and sujak, a spicy fermented sausage. Breakfast is also available, with items ranging from \$4.99 to \$8.99, with hummus, pita, yogurt, veggies, fava beans, cheese, eggs, falafel, baba ganoush, sujak, shakshukah and fruit. Before he transitioned to a market, Shalo said he tried to keep his business afloat using delivery through third-party apps. “They take 30% of your sale. We were losing money,” he said. “Then we would get bad reviews from customers because the food was delivered late.” Transitioning to his new arrangement has been a blessing, he said, and he is surprised by its success. “We are selling better in the restaurant than we did before, with so many fewer tables. I feel we can breathe again, that we are back to normal again.” Al Basha is open 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday. facebook.com.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

Pratt Street Salsa Socials return for five Friday nights during summer

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

Pratt Street Salsa Socials are coming back for the summer, with five Friday evenings for dancing in the streets of downtown Hartford. Events, which are free of charge, will take place May 27, June 17, July 8, Aug. 19 and Sept. 9 from 5 to 8 p.m. The series is presented by Hartford Business Improvement District and Hartford HealthCare. The free summer dances were started in 2016 by the Hartford Business Improvement District to cater to the salsa community and establish a sense of culture across the city, says Chip McCabe, the district’s events director. “Unlike a concert or a performance event — everyone who comes to a Pratt Street Salsa Social becomes a part of the experience — the dancers, the kids, the grandparents, the professional instructors from Arthur Murray Dance Center, and the audience — they all experience the energy in the same way.”



Come alone or bring a partner to one or all five of the Pratt Street Salsa Socials during the summer. Instructors from Arthur Murray Dance Center will be there to teach beginners the basics. **SEAN FOWLER/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

“We look forward to these Pratt Street Salsa Socials that add vitality to our capital city and engage so many people in a celebration of civic and cultural pride,” says Mike Daglio of Hartford HealthCare. Instructors from Arthur Murray

Dance Center will be there to teach people the basics of salsa dancing. Rain dates are June 3, June 24, July 9, Aug. 26, and Sept. 10. Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

Towns in Connecticut’s richest area could pay to meet affordable housing goals

By Ginny Monk
Ct Mirror

A regional affordable housing plan for some of the wealthiest communities in Connecticut could allow towns to pay a fee and count housing units in neighboring towns towards their affordability goals, a move that critics say could worsen segregation. Under the plan, a town would be able to count certain housing units in other towns toward its own affordable housing goals under Section 8-30g of a decades-old state law that gives developers the ability to challenge towns in court if their affordable housing proposals are denied. Towns are exempt from 8-30g if at least 10% of their units are set aside as affordable or are government assisted. Few municipalities have reached the 10% threshold set under 8-30g. The payment suggestion in the draft of the Western Connecticut Council of Governments’ affordable housing plan would mean towns that haven’t reached the goal — most of the towns in the region — could pay an undetermined amount to towns that have reached the goal, such as Stamford, Danbury and Norwalk, for the right to apply certain housing units to their 10% threshold. The council covers 18 municipalities in Connecticut: Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Norwalk, Redding, Ridgefield, Sherman, Stamford, Weston, Westport and Wilton. WestCOG staff said the idea was included because of transportation costs and job opportunities. Some municipalities have seen more demand for affordable housing because they have more jobs. The added transportation cost for low-income families to get to work from rural areas could make living in those areas unaffordable, said Francis Pickering, the council’s executive director. “It doesn’t make sense to try to situate housing where there’s no public water, no public sewer,” he said. “You’re going to create a huge hill to get over.” Pickering said details such as whether the policy would be applied retroactively to housing stock that the city already has or whether it would have to be built new have not been decided. But, he added, renovating existing stock is cheaper than building new housing. The idea is one of several in the plan that advocates are criticizing. They say it will serve to increase segregation and allow some towns to avoid having to make real changes to address the problem. “I think it’s incredibly disappointing that from what I can tell from reading WestCOG’s plan, that that is a viable means of some of their towns meeting their affordability goals,” said Christie Stewart, director of Fairfield County’s Center for Housing Opportunity. “I think that suggesting policy like that moves us backward in the state of Connecticut and not forward.” Pickering declined to respond to specific criticisms, saying they hadn’t been brought to the council yet. The council is accepting public comments on the document through Wednesday. The plan also includes measures such as evaluating inclusionary “zoning concepts” to increase the supply of housing, conducting an inventory of people experiencing homelessness, considering

the fiscal and service advantages of creating a regional housing authority and developing an ongoing inventory of low- and moderate-income housing managed by housing authorities, among several other actions. The plan, which council staff say aims to address the need for more affordable housing in the region, is the result of a 2017 law that requires towns to develop five-year plans to address the need for affordable housing. The deadline to finish the plans is this summer. The need for more housing for people with low incomes has gotten more attention nationally in recent years as demand has outpaced supply and housing prices and rents have spiked. The legislature is considering a handful of bills that aim to increase the affordable housing stock or lower rents, including one that would have towns to plan and zone for a certain number of affordable housing units based on a regional need. Many advocates and experts say restrictive zoning laws in Connecticut make it difficult to develop multifamily housing, which is typically more affordable to those with low incomes. The WestCOG report shows that about 42.5% of renters in the region spend more than 35% of their incomes on rent. Plan details Some of the municipalities in the council will develop their own plans that can incorporate some elements of the WestCOG plan, while others will adopt their own versions of the plan, Pickering said. “It has a toolbox of different strategies,” said Kristin Floberg, a staff planner with the council. Those strategies include suggestions to finance more housing, evaluate adjustments to zoning, increase home ownership rates and establish a regional housing authority. But housing advocates say it doesn’t include enough tangible steps to address the need. “It really stops short of calling for the concrete sorts of actions of what we understood should be there,” said Nick Abbott, deputy coordinator at Desegregate CT. A lack of access to affordable housing has reinforced segregation and kept families with low incomes from accessing schools and other amenities in wealthier towns, advocates said. Darien’s school board recently rejected a proposal, through the state’s Open Choice Program, that would have allowed 16 Norwalk kindergarteners to attend school in Darien. Dice Oh, a member of the group People Friendly Stamford, said the problem arises partly because schools and amenities are funded through local taxes. Wealthier suburbs have better-funded schools, and if lower-income families can’t afford to live in the district, their children can’t access the schools. “I think WestCOG is not acknowledging the status quo where all the poor people and minorities are shunted into the poorer urban areas,” Oh said. Pickering said the council consulted with the Department of Housing on the decision to develop a regional plan, which council officials believe will be more effective at addressing the need. He added that the plan aims to address factors that influence home costs outside of zoning, including financing and building standards. The council also wants to consider access to transporta-

tion and transportation costs for low-income families when adding housing. “I will say there is so much myopic focus on zoning that there’s been a failure to recognize the role that financing plays in all of this,” said Charles Vidich, a senior project manager with the council. The plan also includes information on funding for homeownership and Connecticut Housing Finance Authority programs that finance housing. Staff said finding financing, particularly for homeowners who want to add an accessory dwelling unit to their home, can be challenging. Pickering added that the council plans to commission an affordable housing financing study to begin this year. Advocates said the plan doesn’t include enough specific targets to be effective. They expressed particular concern with the action items that said officials would “evaluate” or “consider” moves rather than make changes. “The purpose of effective planning is to set a target and work toward that goal,” Stewart said. “WestCOG got part way there, but didn’t take it the rest of the way.”

What towns are doing

After the plan goes through its public comment period, the council will consider changes, and municipalities can decide whether to use it. Some are developing their own plans and considering the suggestions in the WestCOG draft. Westport is drafting its own plan, although the Planning and Development Commission plans to use the WestCOG research and attach the plan as an addendum, commissioner Danielle Dobin said. “We’re part of the region, we’re part of the state ... We’re not going to pretend that there’s some sort of moat around Westport,” Dobin said. Westport’s plan is going to be very granular with specific zoning recommendations for the town and particular ways to encourage multifamily development, Dobin said. “I will certainly be reviewing their recommendations along with the Westport Planning and Zoning Commission, and we will certainly look to take their advice if it makes sense for Westport,” she added. Norwalk plans to do something similar. The city likely won’t meet the deadline to submit its plan and will let the state know in the next few days, said Steve Kleppin, planning and zoning director. Although the city won’t make the deadline, staff said they take the issue seriously and are more concerned with developing a plan that meets the need. The city has a request out for a consultant to assist in developing the plan and is about a year away from having a complete plan, Kleppin said. “Something great that the WestCOG plan outlines are various ideas for encouraging affordable housing in town,” he added. “So I’m sure we’ll take a look at that to make sure that the consultants we hire, if they touch on those ideas and if not, why.” Danbury has already developed its plan, and while there are some similarities between it and the WestCOG plan, the city will use its own plan. There’s a hearing set for next month on the Danbury plan, said Sharon Calitro, the city’s planning director.

Alex Jones’ trial delayed as Infowars seeks bankruptcy

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — A Texas judge on Wednesday pushed back the first jury trial over how much conspiracy theorist Alex Jones should pay the families of Sandy Hook victims after his Infowars company sought bankruptcy protection this week. The delay ordered by state District Judge Maya Guerra Gamble comes days after Infowars and two other companies tied to Jones filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in Texas. Jones has lost defamation lawsuits in Texas and Connecti-

cut over his comments that the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre was a hoax. The first trial over how much he should pay the families had been scheduled to begin Monday in Austin, where Infowars is headquartered. A new trial date has not been set. Attorneys for Sandy Hook families have accused Jones of trying to hide millions of dollars in assets. Creditors listed in Infowars’ bankruptcy filing include relatives of some of the 20 children and six educators killed in the 2012 school shooting in Connecticut.

Exhibit

from Page 1

New York City,” Falk is quoted as saying in the museum’s announcement. The museum stated that “by the time of his death [Hines’] accomplishments had been all but forgotten and his name was mostly unknown until his canvases were rediscovered and rescued from the dumpster by Whipple and Martin in 2017.” Hines’ work also will be shown at the Hollis Taggart

Gallery in Southport, when the exhibit, “Francis Hines: Unwrapping the Mystery of New York’s Wrapper,” will be up from May 5 to June 11. The Southport exhibit will show paintings and archival material including photographs and project drawings. It will have a companion exhibit in Taggart’s gallery in Manhattan. More information at mattnmuseum.org and hollistaggart.com/exhibitions. Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

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LEGAL NOTICE SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTIES

Notice is hereby given that the Purchasing Department for the City of Bristol, Connecticut is accepting proposals for the disposition of surplus properties as follows:

2022-080 Sale of Surplus Property on Kilmartin Avenue Map 8 Lot 102; sub-missions due May 16, 2022 at 1:00 pm

2022-081 Sale of Surplus Property on Kilmartin Avenue Map 8 Lot 106; sub-missions due May 16, 2022 at 1:15 pm

Proposal submissions will be accepted by the Purchasing Department until the date and time noted above; submissions received after this date and time will not be considered. Interested firms are required to submit one original copy via digital media of the proposal to Roger Rousseau, Purchasing Agent, no later than the date and time noted above. Submissions may be made via email, shared file service, or USB drive delivered to the address noted below; the City does not assume responsibility for failure of submissions to be received by the City by the date and time noted above.

The successful bidder shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin. The Contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, gender, or national origin.

Proposal submission materials can be obtained online at the website below, or by contacting:

City of Bristol Purchasing Department
111 North Main St, Bristol, CT 06010
Tel (860) 584-6195
Email purchasing@bristolct.gov
http://www.bristolct.gov/bids
4/21/22 7194681

Invitation to Bid 2022-082 Orchard Street Sidewalk Replacement

The City of Bristol is seeking bids for sidewalk improvements in Bristol's low income areas, specifically on Orchard Street. The project funding is provided through the Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") Program via the Economic and Community Development Department ("ECD"). Bid documents may be obtained for a \$30.00 fee payable to QuestCDN by downloading from the QuestCDN web site via the following link:
https://www.bristolct.gov/Bids.aspx?BidID=1114
Bids will be accepted until May 12, 2022 at 3:00 pm via the online electronic bidding system through QuestCDN.com.

Bids received after the opening date and time will not be considered for award. The City reserves the right to waive any informalities in the bid, to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid that in its judgment is in its best interest. Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of 10% of the bidders base bid amount, in the form of a Bid Bond made payable to the City of Bristol. Firms submitting bids must be pre-qualified with the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services ("DAS") to perform concrete and/or sitework, and shall include with their bid a copy of a current certificate as issued by DAS. Additionally, any contractor or subcontractor performing any work on this contract must be pre-qualified with DAS to perform said services, and shall include with their bid a copy of a current certificate as issued by DAS. Interested bidders are advised that award of contracts are limited to entities registered to do business with the federal government through the System for Award Management ("SAM"). For further information, please visit the Government Contract Registration Center online via the following web link: https://governmentcontractregistration.com/sam-registration.asp?key=sam&source=bing

The awarded contractor will be required to secure a Performance Bond and a Labor and Materials Bond, each in the amount of 100% of the contract award, provided by a surety licensed to do business in the State of Connecticut. The requirements for prevailing wage rates as outlined within G.S. 31-53 are to apply to the resultant contract award. The successful Bidder shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin. The Contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, gender, or national origin.

Roger D. Rousseau, Purchasing Agent
Tel (860) 584-6195
Fax (860) 584-6171
http://www.bristolct.gov/bids
7194438

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Carmelo P. Gionfriddo (22-00321)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated April 14, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Carleen Brody
c/o Philip J. Carignan, Moran Shuster C & K, 111 Simsbury Rd Suite 201, Avon, CT 06001
4/21/2022 7193519

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Edward Craig Patapas, AKA Edward C Patapas (22-00076)

The Hon. Barbara Gardner Rioridan, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Tolland - Mansfield Probate Court, by decree dated April 14, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Patrice Maycock-Lusa, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Wendell Avery
c/o WENDELLIN DEAN AVERY, THE LAW OFFICE OF WENDELL D. AVERY, 72 W. STAFFORD RD., UNIT C-1, STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT 06076
4/21/22 7194464

LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION Town of Old Saybrook Zoning Board of Appeals

Pursuant to the provisions of Public Act 75-96, effective May 8, 1975, notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals has rendered decisions on the following appeals heard at their Regular Meeting held on April 13, 2022. These decisions have been filed in the office of the Town Clerk, Old Saybrook, Town Hall.

21/22-24 Guilford Savings Bank seeks a variance of Par 64.5.5.4 (setback from street line/10' required/ 2' proposed) of the Zoning Regulations to permit the placement of a 50 s.f. freestanding sign at 840 Boston Post Road, Map 36/Lot 164, Shopping Center Business B-2 District. DENIED

21/22-22C Peter J. Connerton, seeks a variance of Par 10.8.3 (non-conforming lot size/12,500 s.f. required/ 5,122 s.f. proposed) and Par 68.1.2.9b (tidal wetlands setback/50' required/25.5' proposed) of the Zoning Regulations to permit the construction of a 1,609 s.f. house with a deck at 54 Vincent Avenue, Map 14/Lot 1, Residence A District, Coastal Area Management Zone. GRANTED/CAM APPROVED AS AMENDED

Located at Old Saybrook, Connecticut this 21st day of April, 2022
Old Saybrook Zoning Board of Appeals
Charles Gaden, Chairman
4/21/22 7191786

TOWN OF CROMWELL PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF DECISION

At its regular meeting on April 19, 2022 the Town of Cromwell Planning and Zoning Commission met and took the following actions:

1. Voted to approve Application #22-02: Request to amend Sections 5., 5.2.H.4 of the Zoning Regulations to allow for the waiver of a loading dock. Michael J. Cannata and Bantry Bay Ventures, LLC are the Applicants.

Alice Kelly
Chairman
Dated in Cromwell, Connecticut this the 15th day April of 2022.
4/21/2022 7192811

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CINDY KOPITAR, Late of Portland, AKA CINDY J. KOPITAR (22-00062)

The Hon. Jennifer L. Berkenstock, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Region # 14 Probate Court, by decree dated April 1, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Suzanne B. Emond, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Joseph H. Kopitar
c/o GEORGE A. LAW, LAW OFFICE OF GEORGE A. LAW, 595 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 248, PORTLAND, CT 06480
4/21/22 7193902

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated: 578 Federal Road, Brookfield, CT 06804, April 28, 2022 at 11:00 AM. Craig Vandenbrulle unit 2068, Furniture, Business Supplies. The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.
4/8/22 7187666

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Matthew A. Baxter, Late of Lyme, AKA Matthew Andrews Baxter (22-0152)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated April 11, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jacqueline Craco, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Phillip Foussard
c/o JONATHAN D. CARLISLE, J.D. CARLISLE ASSOC., 180 WESTBROOK ROAD - # 2, PO BOX 800, ESSEX, CT 06426
4/21/22 7193947

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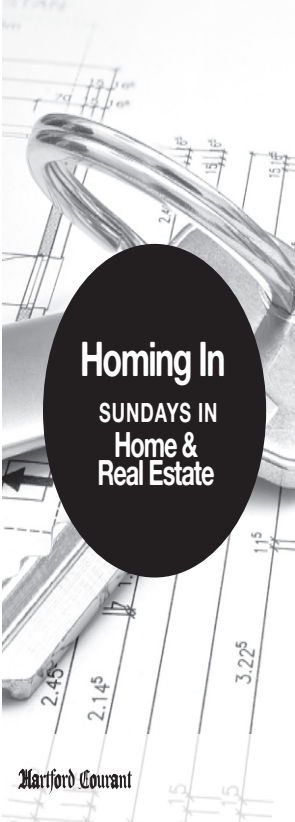
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ALZ.org/TimeToTalk



alzheimer's association



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TRIBUNE PUBLISHING



A hospice patient and her palliative care doctor in Corvallis, Oregon. ALISHA JUCEVIC/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2021

Dying in a place of love

Most people want to die at home, but it's not always the best course, some health experts argue

By Paula Span
The New York Times

Where do people most want to be when they die? At home, they tell researchers — in familiar surroundings, in comfort, with the people they love. That wish has become more achievable. In 2017, according to an analysis in The New England Journal of Medicine, home surpassed the hospital as the most common place of death — 30.7% of deaths occurred at home, compared with 29.8% at the hospital. “It’s probably the first time that’s happened in the United States in modern times,” said Dr. Haider Warraich, a cardiologist at the Veterans Affairs Boston Healthcare System and an author of the study. Technically, the proportion was even higher, since some people who died in nursing facilities (20.8%) were long-term residents and the nursing home effectively was their home. Warraich credited the change to the rise of hospice care, for which Congress authorized Medicare coverage 40 years ago.

By 2019, more than half of Medicare beneficiaries who died were enrolled in hospice. “There’s been a cultural shift,” he said. “People don’t want to die in hospitals, and hospice helps make that possible.” But not always. When Lee Zeiontz was dying of lung cancer, she wanted to remain in her apartment on the Lower East Side of Manhattan in New York City with her cat on her bed and her neighbors stopping by. Lynda Hollander, her niece, hired an aide to supplement the hospice staff. But Zeiontz’s pain eventually intensified and her older relatives were uneasy about administering morphine. “I think they were afraid of her dying at home,” said Hollander, a social worker in West Orange, New Jersey. They moved Zeiontz to an inpatient hospice unit at Mount Sinai Beth Israel Hospital, where she died a day and a half later, at 70. Similarly, Alan Mironer had vowed to care for his wife, Lynne, with hospice help in their home in Edina, Minnesota, as she died of breast cancer. “He felt

it was his responsibility,” their son, Mark, said. But as she weakened and became unable to walk to the bathroom, he said, “suddenly, it was so much more work to take care of her.” The Alan Mironer, then 81, became overwhelmed. Neighbors told them about a small hospice facility in Edina, with room for eight patients. Lynne Mironer spent her final week there, dying at 78. Such experiences prompted an article this month in The New England Journal of Medicine that pointedly asks, “Is There Really ‘No Place Like Home’?” The lead author, Dr. Melissa Wachterman, a palliative care specialist at Harvard Medical School, and her co-authors argue that alternative locations, including free-standing inpatient hospice facilities and hospice units within hospitals, could better care for some terminal patients with difficult symptoms and provide relief for exhausted families. They also contend that financial incentives play a role in where death occurs. “There’s a lot of cultural

pressure: ‘If you really loved this person, you’d keep them at home,’” Wachterman said. “We need to acknowledge that there are people whose needs are so great that families cannot manage death at home.” A handful of hospice patients receive “continuous home care,” which means nurses and aides are provided eight to 24 hours a day; this accounts for 0.2% of hospice days, according to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, an independent agency that advises Congress on Medicare issues. Another handful receive inpatient services in a hospice facility, hospital or nursing home. But inpatient care is hard to secure, accounting for just 1.2% of all hospice days in 2019. To be covered under Medicare, the patient must be diagnosed with a symptom that cannot feasibly be managed in any other setting, and “that’s a pretty high bar,” Wachterman said. The authors also advocate expanded access to continuous home care and lower barriers to inpatient

end-of-life care, in hospice facilities (the national organization estimates that about 30% of hospices have them) or hospice units within nursing homes and hospitals. Of the three times I have accompanied family members to their deaths, we achieved the good-death-at-home paradigm once: My mother died at 80, with uterine cancer and after a major stroke, in her own bed. My father and I cared for her, with a hospice team. He died at 90, when sepsis overwhelmed him in a hospital before I could arrange for hospice care at home. My sister’s death in 2015 showed the possibility of a middle ground. Disabled by late-onset Tay-Sachs disease, a neurological condition, she had been hospitalized with an uncertain prognosis. I was her health care proxy. As she declined, she developed such severe pain that, between sobs, she was calling for our long-dead parents. I immediately enrolled her in hospice and began planning to move her back to her assisted-living facility, so that she could

die in her own apartment. It soon became clear that would be impossible. In the hospital, hospice nurses visited twice a day, constantly raising the dose of her morphine drip before switching to more potent medications. Having staff nurses always nearby allowed us to provide comfort, relying on a team we never could have duplicated on our own. The hospital understood our needs. It arranged for a private room with 24-hour access for my cousin and me. We turned off the TV and the intercom, dimmed the lights, played soothing music, allowed family and friends to come and kept the vigil. It wasn’t homey, but it was peaceful. My sister, just 62, died after 24 days in the hospital and 14 in hospice care. Far more hospice patients and families could probably benefit from a similar option when home care proves too difficult. “For many patients, ‘home’ isn’t the physical place,” Warraich said. “It’s a metaphor for a place that’s not medicalized, that’s comfortable and full of love.”

Survey shows 1 in 5 Medicare patients use medical marijuana

HealthDay News

One in five Medicare recipients use medical marijuana and two-thirds say it should be covered by Medicare, a new survey reveals. Medical marijuana is legal in 37 states, four territories and the District of Columbia, but it isn’t covered by Medicare, the federal health insurance program for older Americans. Possession of marijuana remains illegal under

federal law. The poll of 1,250 Medicare recipients was conducted in April and found that one in five use medical marijuana and 23% have used it in the past. In all, 21% said they use it to treat one or more medical conditions. Current use for health reasons was highest among respondents who also used marijuana recreationally (39%). Respondents use it to treat a variety of physical

and mental health conditions, including 32% for anxiety and 31% for chronic pain. Roughly one-quarter said they use it to treat depression, glaucoma, and symptoms associated with HIV/AIDS, including nausea, appetite loss and pain. Among respondents, support was strong for Medicare coverage of medical marijuana. Two-thirds said they “strongly agree” or “agree” that medical marijuana

should be covered. Thirty-four percent said they “disagree” or “strongly disagree.” Nearly six in 10 supporters of Medicare coverage said they do so because medical marijuana can be effective when other treatments fail. Surprisingly, support for Medicare coverage was lower among current medical marijuana users (56%), compared with 63% of previous users and 71% of those who said they’ve

never used it. Why the reluctance among current users? Nearly four in 10 (38%) said they fear Medicare coverage would increase the drug price. Pollsters found that current users’ out-of-pocket costs were wide-ranging. Half reported spending up to \$200 per month. The online poll was commissioned by MedicarePlans.com, a group that examines Medicare issues.



GETTY

CELEBRITIES

Prince Harry details visit with queen

From news services

Prince Harry is opening up about his life at home and his recent surprise visit with Queen Elizabeth II, saying he and his wife, Meghan, had tea with the monarch and shared laughs.

“It was really nice to catch up with her,” Harry told NBC’s “Today” show in an interview that aired Wednesday. “She’s in great form. She’s always got a great sense of humor with me.”

Harry and Megan visited the queen at Windsor Castle on April 14 for their first joint visit to the United Kingdom since they gave up formal royal roles and moved to Santa Barbara, California, in 2020.

Harry said like a lot of working parents, he and his wife found it hard to separate work and parenting — they have two children, Archie, who is almost 3, and 10-month-old Lilibet — during the pandemic.

The couple visited Harry’s 95-year-old grandmother on their way to the Netherlands to attend the Invictus Games. Harry is founder and patron of the international sports competition for wounded military veterans.

Harry said he wanted to return to the U.K. with his kids for the queen’s upcoming platinum jubilee, but warned that “security issues” could get in the way. “I don’t know yet. There’s a lot of things, with security issues and everything else,” Harry said, adding he was “trying to make it possible that I can get my kids to meet her.”

Harry is suing the British government for refusing to let him pay for his own police security on his U.K. visits. His lawyers say Harry wants to bring his children to visit his home country but that it is too risky without police



Prince Harry, seen with Meghan Sept. 25, said the couple had tea with Queen Elizabeth II on April 14. **STEFAN JEREMIAH/AP**

protection.

Harry has made solo trips to the U.K. to attend the funeral of his grandfather, Prince Philip, in April 2021 and to unveil a statue of his late mother Princess Diana in July.

He said he was enjoying fatherhood. “I’ve always wanted to have my own kids, and now I’ve got two little people who I’m responsible for.”

He also said he has found himself thinking of his late mother even more. “I feel her presence in almost everything that I do now. But definitely more so in the last two years more than ever before, without question. So she’s watching over us.”

A\$AP Rocky arrested: Rapper A\$AP Rocky was taken into custody Wednesday at Los Angeles International Airport in connection with a shooting in Hollywood last year, authorities said.

The performer, whose real name is Rakim Mayers, was detained on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon, the LA Police Department said in a statement Wednesday.

Mayers, 33, was wanted in connected with a Nov. 6, 2021, shooting after an argument escalated,

authorities said. Mayers is accused of firing a handgun at an acquaintance, who sustained a minor injury, police said.

Miller arrested again in Hawaii: Ezra Miller was arrested on suspicion of assault Tuesday, the second time the actor known for playing the Flash in “Justice League” films has been arrested in Hawaii in recent weeks.

Miller became irate after being asked to leave a get-together at a Big Island home and threw a chair, hitting a woman in the forehead, according to a news release from the Hawaii Police Department.

Miller, 29, was arrested during a traffic stop and released pending further investigation.

The actor was also arrested last month at a Big Island karaoke bar.

April 21 birthdays: Actor Elaine May is 90. Singer Iggy Pop is 75. Actor Patti LuPone is 73. Actor Tony Danza is 71. Actor Andie MacDowell is 64. Singer Robert Smith is 63. Actor John Cameron Mitchell is 59. Rapper Michael Franti is 56. Actor Leslie Silva is 54. Actor Rob Riggle is 52. Actor Nicole Sullivan is 52. Actor James McAvoy is 43.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Writers encouraged to proceed ‘Bird by Bird’

Dear Amy: My darling partner, “B,” has been a successful author, and has received a lot of satisfaction (and public acclaim) from it.

During a lull, B took a job to make ends meet, and has been doing the 9-to-5 slog ever since.

Every few months, B will get an idea for a new book. B has an agent and the connections to get it published.

B will get super excited about the idea, talking about it for days. I start thinking about how I can help, offering perspectives and praise; and then it fizzles, and we’re both sad.

B grinds away at a job to pay the bills, pursues hobbies and friendships — and takes wonderful care of our household.

I wish I could figure out a way to help move all that enthusiasm toward action, instead of watching my partner stall out at the idea phase.

How can I help?
— *Happy to Help*

Dear Happy: Nothing squeezes a writer quite like the pressure of success, especially when that success is followed by a lull (and they all are).

The pressure to both create and also succeed critically and commercially can be exhausting. This is why some successful writers give it all up and become garlic ranchers.

I shared your query with my friend, the writer Anne Lamott, author of many books, including an important book on writing, which has guided many stuck writers home: “Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life” (25th Anniversary edition, 2019,

Anchor Books).

Anne responds: “B is lucky to have so many great ideas but that does not mean they’d make good books. I’d create a file of plot ideas and see if they excited me a month later. If one plot won’t leave me alone, and the characters are compelling enough to spend a year with, I may be on to something!”

“An agent will not look at it until there is a solid second draft, so you — the ‘Happy’ partner — can practice releasing B to the work itself.

“The ‘help’ is not helpful — the hyper-excitement and support turn the project into frappe speed, instead of the daily elbow grease all writers need to get a few pages written every day.

“The frenzy and the despair are in lieu of writing. Dial your ‘help’ way back: Express quiet support for new ideas, but no more than that. Maybe B follows through, maybe not.”

Here is the distilled advice Anne Lamott gives to herself: “I tell myself to write ‘bird by bird’; a really (expletive) first draft; to keep my butt in the chair; then go through and take out the lies, adverbs and boring parts.”

Dear Amy: I just learned that a family member is writing a memoir. Yesterday, she told me: “You’re in it a few times.”

Now that a day has passed, I find myself wondering what she has written about me.

Don’t I have rights here?
— *Worried*

Dear Worried: I’ve written two memoirs. In both

cases, I shared excerpts with family members where they were named, inviting them to weigh in. I did this because the relationships were more important to me than the excavation of family history.

There were also cases where I named people but did not invite them to weigh in, because I didn’t care about the impact of my writing on the relationship.

You have the right to ask your family member to see sections involving you. If she refuses, or if you don’t like what you read later — you have the right to tell her so and to keep your distance. If the material is defamatory, you have the right to see her in court.

Dear Amy: I’m supporting your answer to “Moving On.”

My husband reluctantly visited his absentee dad on his father’s deathbed.

He got some information and history that helped him to understand everything that had happened around the time he was conceived.

He’s still not a fan, but he got some inner peace.

— *Moved On*

Dear Moved On: Your husband’s experience underscores something I learned long ago: When it comes to complex and painful family histories, total resolution is rarely in the cards, but getting part-way there is a goal worth reaching for.

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Animals get extreme close-up in ‘Our Great National Parks’

By Karla Peterson
San Diego Union-Tribune

Behold, the monito del monte.

Weighing in at less than 2 ounces, this small opossum has been around since dinosaurs roamed the Earth. A resident of Chile and Argentina, the monito del monte is the only surviving species of the order Microbiotheria. And thanks to its extremely messy eating habits, it helps spread the seeds of more than 20 plant species in the forests of Chile and Argentina.

The monito is also one of the many animals getting an extreme close-up in “Our Great National Parks,” a new Netflix series devoted to the eye-popping, heart-stopping, consciousness-raising wonders of the world’s most astounding national parks.

Arriving just in time for Earth Day on April 22, the five-episode series focuses on just a handful of the world’s more than 4,000 national parks. The series — which was executive produced and narrated by former U.S. President Barack Obama — travels from the lush rain forests of Indonesia’s Gunung Leuser National Park to the coves and beaches of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, with stops in Kenya’s Tsavo National Park and Chilean Patagonia.

Its cameras catch the nighttime moves of black rhinos gathering at a Kenyan waterhole, Chilean stag beetles locking jaws in a battle for a mate, and the first footage of a 2-month-old orca taking part in the hunt of a gray whale calf.

But whether it is going for gasps, laughs or goosebumps, “Our Great National Parks” has one message for the humans at home: We are not entirely doomed. Not yet.



Former President Barack Obama, center, narrates the five episodes of “Our Great National Parks.” **PETE SOUZA/NETFLIX**

Like any responsible nature series, “Our Great National Parks” cannot talk about the wonders of the natural world without acknowledging the many ways in which that world is under siege. No one here is pretending that climate change, habitat loss and pollution do not exist.

But in the world’s national parks, endangered animal and plant populations are coming back, farmlands are being returned to the wild, and there are amazing views of the stars where light pollution does not exist.

Although the filmmakers worked closely with scientists, conservationists, local guides and other experts, there are no on-camera interviews with any of them. There is no graphic footage of animals in peril. Even when one animal hunts and kills another, the deaths are not overly bloody. Climate change and other threats are acknowledged but not dwelled upon.

Instead, the series offers cleverly constructed, anthropomorphized vignettes of animals meeting the extraordinary challenges of eating, mating and child-rearing in places that range from the para-

disal to the perilous. All of these vignettes are narrated in a friendly, but passionate way by Obama, who does not have to push too hard to get viewers invested the stories he wants to tell.

The narration occasionally ambles into Dad-joke territory, and some of the scenes are a little over-scripted. But it is a very small price to pay for such a life-affirming, wonder-reviving look at the world around us.

And throughout, “Our Great National Parks” reminds viewers of the conservation strides that have been made since Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872.

Today, around 15% of the world’s lands and 8% of our oceans have been protected through parks and reserves. In Monterey Bay, nature thrives in one our most populous states. Ecotourism is bringing millions of dollars into Patagonia. There is a mountain gorilla baby boom in Rwanda.

As poet Emily Dickinson said, “‘Hope’ is the thing with feathers.” In “Our Great National Parks,” hope also has fur, scales, gills and claws.

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): Staying calm might not be easy now. You could feel the urge to get to work on a project. The conditions are lining up to give you a window of opportunity! Your impatience could get the better of you, but hold it back until you’re satisfied with your results.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Change is a good thing. Your current lifestyle could be so constant that you can do your routine in your sleep. You might be just going through the motions. Open your eyes to fresh possibilities! Consider letting your friends make suggestions on new things to have fun trying together.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): You can be motivated to climb the career ladder today. The urge to improve your position could be strong right now. You may not have much help from others, but this is likely because you’re being given an opportunity to prove yourself and show that you can work independently.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Your ego might get in the way of your relationships. No matter how many people are willing to help you, trying to throw your weight around is not beneficial. Even if you’re on a good path, bragging can turn people off, especially when they’re trying to make things easier for you.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Painting yourself into a corner is a dangerous possibility today. Watch out for unhealthy thought patterns. That will allow you to look deep inside and ask yourself what’s encouraging you to settle for less. Seriously — you deserve the best, and there is no reason to shortchange yourself.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Trying to share could frustrate you today. You received something that you’ve been working for, only to find that you have to let another person take part in what you’ve been waiting for. Life is meant to be shared. Learning how to do things together could end up being valuable.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Learning to trust could be an important lesson right now. Remind yourself that you don’t have to be afraid of help just because someone hurt you in the past. For current success, remember to be objective when setting expectations, and don’t let your fears blind you to reality.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A lack of organization could make things difficult for you today. Taking this time to figure out what sort of structure works for you can help you get organized. Staying focused on the goal can give you an edge. You also have unusually good luck at the moment, so give it your all.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You might find yourself healing your creative side. Something that you never could fully get past may be forcing you to look at it and asking you to express how you feel about that point in your life. Consider expressing yourself through journaling, talking or creating art inspired by it.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Being different isn’t bad. You might be more aware of the differences between you and your loved ones. There’s always someone better or worse than you. What’s important is that you are secure in who you are — that will let you represent yourself in the best way possible.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Communication isn’t always easy, especially today. It’s OK to show a bolder side to yourself, one that allows you to feel more seen and heard. Do your best to share your opinions with others so they know how you’re feeling — don’t leave them or yourself in the dark.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Your place in your friend group may feel like it’s on shaky ground. Something might be eating up the attention of the person you were closest to, which could make it feel awkward. A new dynamic may take some getting used to, but let them have a chance to grow on you.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On April 21, 1910, author Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, died in Redding, Connecticut, at age 74.

In 1926, Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II was born.

In 1930, fire broke out inside the Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus, killing 332 inmates.

In 1975, with Communist forces closing in, South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu resigned after nearly 10 years in office and fled the country.

In 1976, clinical trials of the swine flu vaccine began.

In 2016, Prince, one of the most inventive and influential musicians of modern times, was found dead at his home; he was 57.

In 2020, researchers reported that a malaria drug that had been widely touted by President Donald Trump for treating the coronavirus showed no benefit in large study of its use in U.S. veterans hospitals.

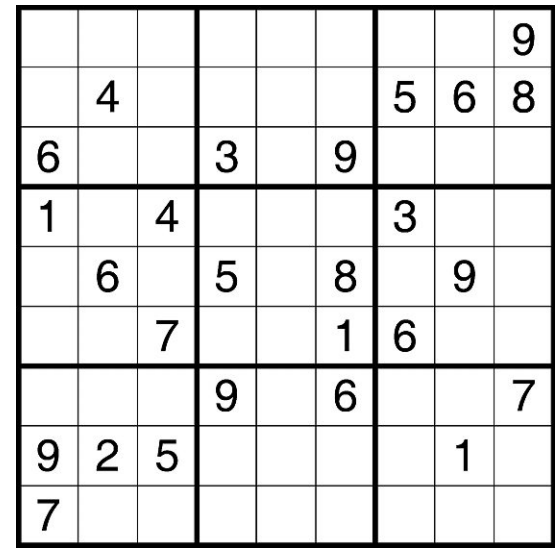
BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at [PlayJumble.com](https://www.playjumble.com)



Scan QR code to play online.

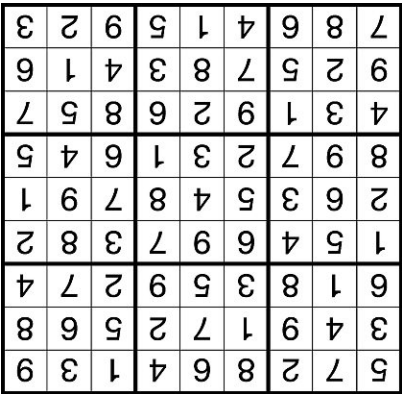
SUDOKU



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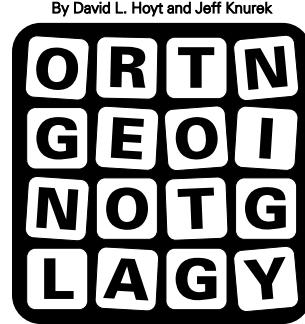
Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.



8/4/17

BOGGLE



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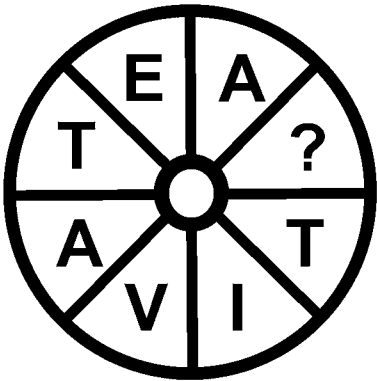
INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE	YOUR BOGGLE RATING
3 letters = 1 point	1151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points	101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points	61-100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points	31-60 = Gamer
7 letters = 6 points	21-30 = Rookie
8 letters = 10 points	11-20 = Amateur
9+ letters = 15 points	0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus
We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?
Find AT LEAST SIX WORDS STARTING AND ENDING WITH "N" in the grid of letters.

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WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

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WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: on trial

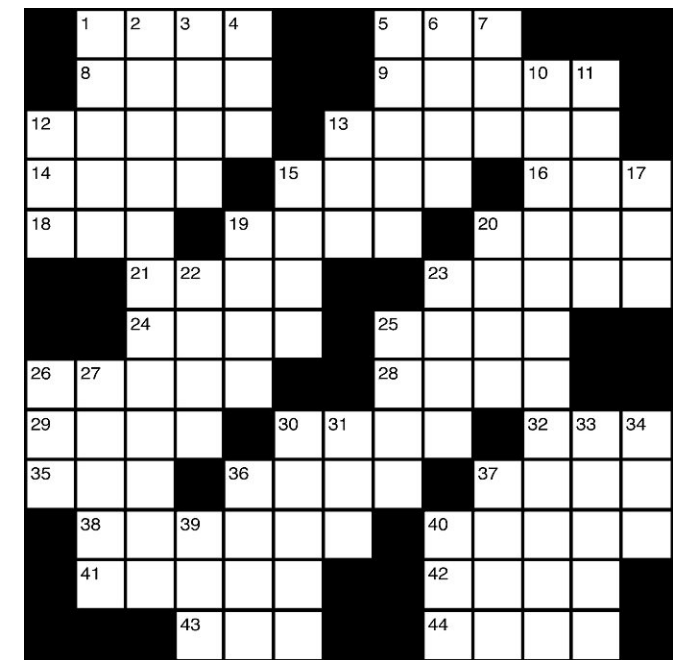
Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.



ACTION	CLERK	JURY	SILK
ADJOURN	COSTS	JUSTICE	SOLICITOR
ALIBI	COUNSEL	LAWYER	SUBPOENA
APPEAL	CRIME	LIBEL	SUMMONS
ATTORNEY	DAMAGES	LITIGANT	SWEAR
BAILIFF	DOCK	ORDER	TRIAL
BEAK	EVIDENCE	PLAINTIFF	VERDICT
BENCH	GAVEL	PLEA	WITNESS
CASE	GOWN	PRISONER	
CHARGE	GUILTY	RULING	
CITE	JUDGE	SENTENCE	

TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/8/17

ACROSS

- "Dharma & _"
- "One Day _ Time"
- _ away; galloped off
- Supermarket walkway
- Desi and Lucy's daughter
- Carrie's dad on "The King of Queens"
- Small dog, for short
- "Get lost!"
- "El _"; Charlton Heston film
- Stallone, to friends
- Connery or Penn
- Rodriguez of "Modern Family"
- James or Scott
- Actor Lloyd _
- Gung ho
- "To _ the Truth"
- Actor Flynn
- "... _ by your outfit that you are a cowboy..."
- Laura or Bruce
- Voight and Gosselin
- Actor Alastair _
- _ Paulo, Brazil
- Clark _; role on "Smallville"

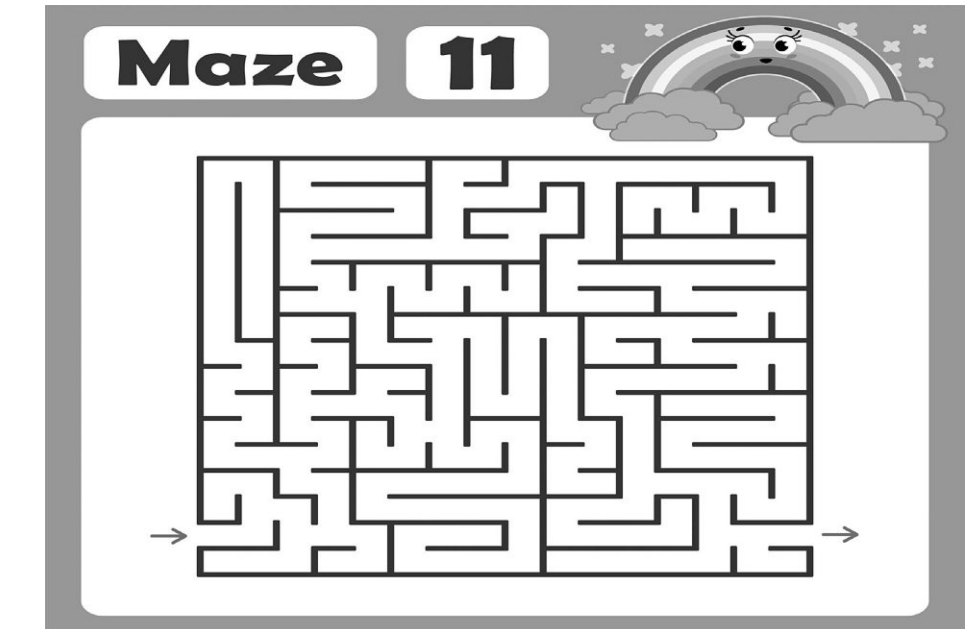


10/15/17

DOWN

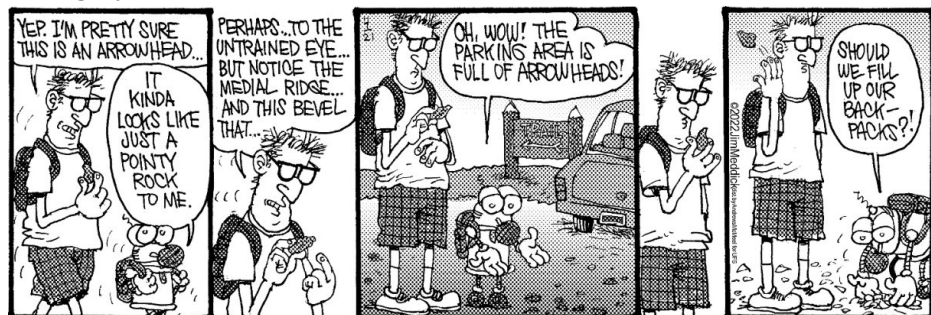
- Oliver's dinner
- Actor on "NCIS"
- Adams or Falco
- Seventh letter
- _ Hotchner; role on "Criminal Minds"
- One of Michael Jackson's brothers
- Bit of sooty residue
- Grandma's portrayer on "Fresh Off the Boat"
- Actress _ Durance
- Record albums, for short
- Grandma's moment; instant of sudden realization
- "_ Me No Flowers"; film for Doris Day and Rock Hudson
- Adams or Johnson
- Set _; leave shore
- Acting part
- Cosmetics company
- Scotland's Loch _ monster
- Slight coloring
- Bradley and Begley
- Gathers crops
- Actor Eisenberg
- "_ Life to Live"
- Actress Laura _
- Ryan or Tilly
- "_ Plus 8"
- Singer Horne
- "_ Pray Love"; movie for Julia Roberts
- One of the girls on "The Brady Bunch"

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



Spot 5 differences

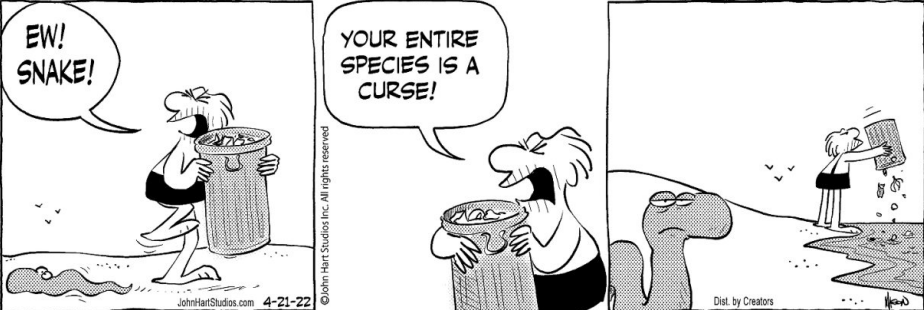




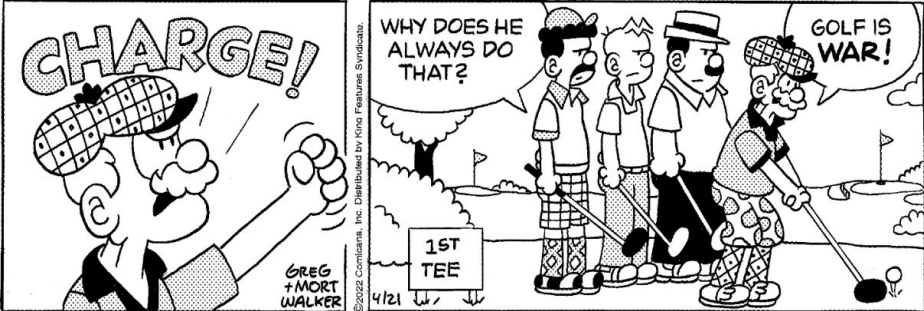
For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



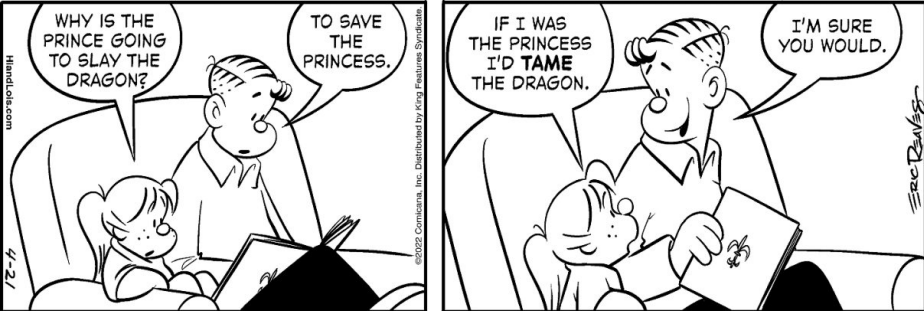
B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



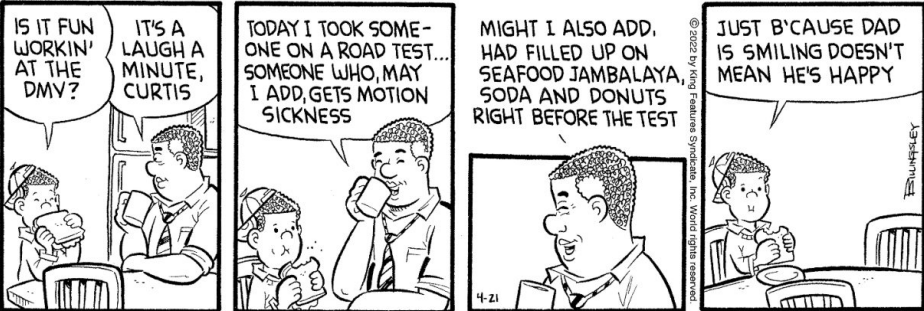
Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



Curtis By Ray Billingsley



Pickles By Brian Crane



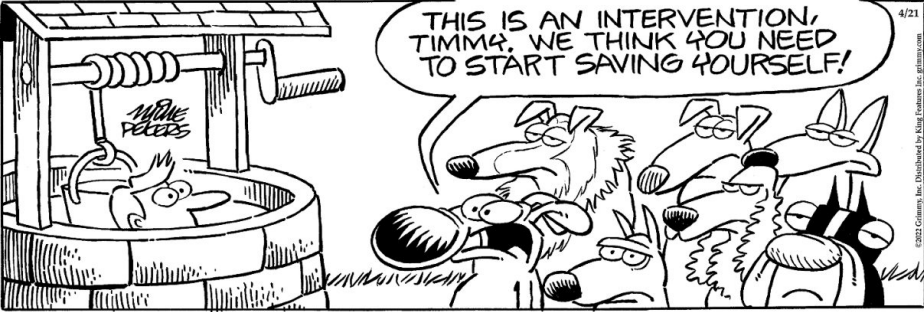
Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

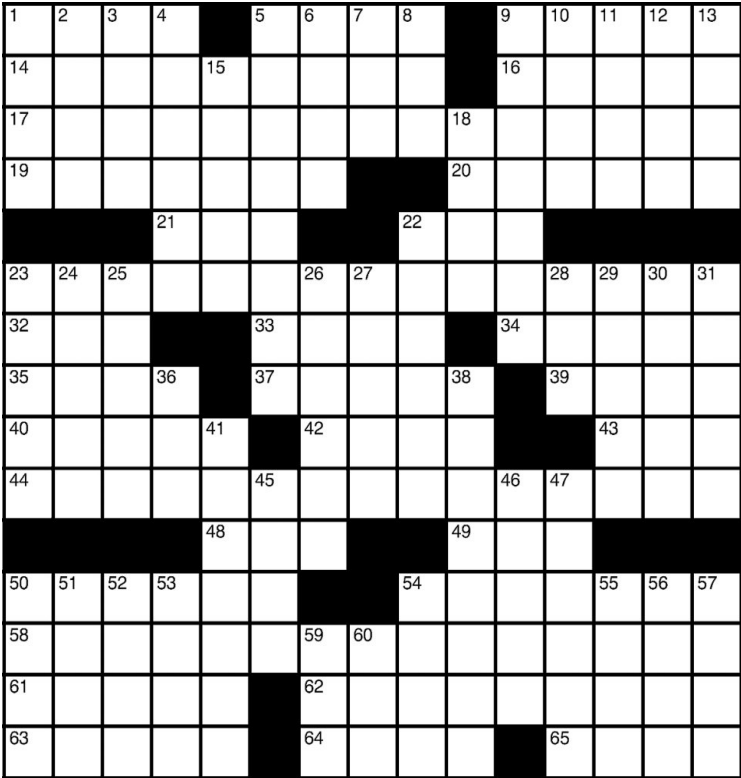
Across

- 1 Epic ____
- 5 Family unit
- 9 App with Social and Promotions tabs
- 14 Instrument for a Swiss mountaineer
- 16 "The Big Bang Theory" co-creator Chuck
- 17 Mission to go after imaginary germs?
- 19 Perfume samples
- 20 Loads
- 21 Old French coin
- 22 "I'm so mean, I make medicine sick" boxer
- 23 Military vessel in terrible condition?
- 32 Calendar col.
- 33 Sporty Camaro
- 34 Huge herbivore
- 35 Site to find a handmade wedding dress, perhaps
- 37 Powerful sharks
- 39 Ventura County tourist town
- 40 Parting word
- 42 Epic party
- 43 ____ Toy Barn: "Toy Story 2" shop
- 44 Antitrust lawsuit, perhaps?
- 48 Hard water?
- 49 Abbr. on a pill bottle
- 50 Crowning point
- 54 Break down
- 58 Double-aheader feature, and what are literally found in

- 17- 23-, and
- 44-Across
- Benefit
- Feature of many a TV show summary
- Aptly named novelist Charles
- "I feel ____": It's like you know me!"
- "Madam Secretary" actor Tim
- 22.5 deg.
- Montana's ____
- National Park
- Sunbeam speak
- Number for soprano Pretty Yende
- Hemoglobin mineral
- Optometrist's concern
- Nash of "When They See Us"
- Hand ____; sushi order
- With no overhead added
- Cook, as bao buns
- One-up
- Piney ooze
- Good for farming bite
- Hungarian wine
- "The Chi" aier, briefly
- Traditional religious garment
- As a whole
- Composure
- Fashion designer Jenny
- No longer large
- Angry speaker's droplet
- Tres y cinco
- "August: ____ County"
- Plateau
- Energy snack brand for kids
- Nesting site
- Frozen Four org.
- "Joke, joke"
- Hobby farm measure
- Where it's fun to stay, per the Village People
- Evangelist's quality
- 2021 award for Naomi Osaka
- Degrees for EEs
- Unreturned serve

Down

- 1 No mere opinion
- 2 Part of a sunburn treatment, often
- 3 Deprivatization events, for short
- 4 Alphabet soup
- 5 Guardians of the Tree of Life
- 6 "Gigi" playwright Anita
- 7 Dada pioneer Jean



By Stella Zawistowski Tribune Content Agency 4/21/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

- ♠ A 7 3
- ♥ K 7 4
- ♦ Q J 10 6 3
- ♣ Q 6

WEST

- ♠ K 9 8 5 2
- ♥ 10 3
- ♦ K 5 4
- ♣ K 7 5

EAST

- ♠ J 6
- ♥ J 9 8 6 2
- ♦ A 8
- ♣ 10 8 4 2

SOUTH

- ♠ Q 10 4
- ♥ A Q 5
- ♦ 9 7 2
- ♣ A J 9 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
1 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — five of spades.

A crucial play

Assume you're in three notrump and West leads a spade. It seems natural to play low from dummy and win East's jack with the queen, but if you do this, you go down one.

East wins your first diamond lead with the ace and returns a spade, and West's spades become established whether you take the ace on this trick or the next one. Your cause is then hopeless, since you cannot make nine tricks without establishing dummy's diamonds, and West still has the diamond entry that allows him to cash his spades.

However, you can make the contract by letting East's jack hold the first trick! Once you do this, the defense disintegrates. When East returns a spade, you still have the suit doubly stopped, and now when you play a diamond, it does not matter which defender wins the trick.

If West takes the diamond and returns a spade, you concede another diamond

to East's ace to acquire nine tricks. If East wins the first diamond lead, he can do no better than return a club, since he has no more spades. If he does that, however, you rise with the ace and lead another diamond, ensuring the contract beyond the shadow of a doubt.

It is true that ducking the spade at trick one would defeat you if it turned out that West had the A-K of diamonds as well as five spades. But this possibility is distinctly against the odds, which strongly favor East having either one or both missing diamond honors.

It's not as abnormal as it might seem to let East's jack hold the opening trick. It's virtually certain that West has the king when East does not play that card at trick one, so it isn't necessary to win the first spade to assure two tricks in the suit.

Tomorrow: Test your play.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GANIA
DMYUD
BKUREE
TMOINO

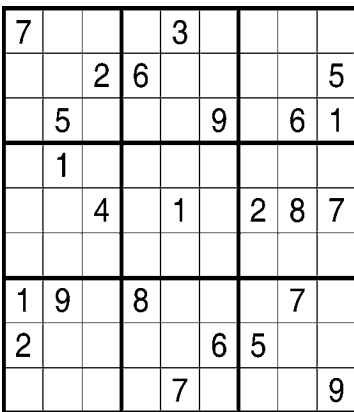
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Print your answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: MONTH SPICY PREFIX PLACID
Answer: It was the rabbits' first time sleeping in a tent, and they were — "HOPPY" CAMPERS

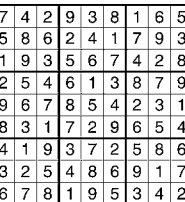


TODAY'S SUDOKU



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ZIPPY

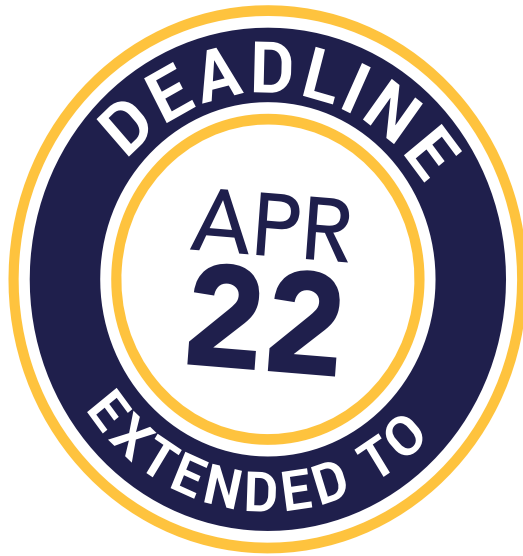


"ARE WE HAVING FUNGIBLE YET?"



BILL GRIMM





Get recognized for what makes your company special.

Be a Top Workplace.

courant.com/nominate

Hartford Courant

SPORTS

COURANT.COM / SPORTS

NETS

Nash: It's on Simmons to say, 'I'm ready'

By Kristian Winfield
New York Daily News

BOSTON — If Ben Simmons is going to play a playoff game this season, the decision will be his, not anyone else's.

That's the message Nets head coach Steve Nash delivered hours ahead of tipoff for Game 2 against the Celtics on Wednesday, exactly 10 months after Simmons last played in an NBA game.

"There's no other way than him to say, 'I'm ready,' especially after

an absence this long," Nash said at the TD Garden. "So whenever he is ready, it's gonna have to be on him to say, 'I feel comfortable,' 'I feel ready to go,' 'I want to play,' 'I want to contribute.'"

"We can't push him places when you have been out this long. It's gotta be something where he's definitely comfortable and ready to play."

Nash said it will be "a collective decision," including the team's performance staff, but ultimately, Simmons will call his own shot.

"This has been a prolonged absence," Nash said. "So I think it's more about [Simmons and the performance staff] are in this together trying to find a resolution, a time for him to come back where he is safe to play and well enough to contribute."

Simmons has continued to make progress after receiving an epidural in mid-March to alleviate the pain associated with a herniated disk in his lower back. This week Nash

Turn to Celtics, Page 4



The Nets' Ben Simmons watches play during the first half against the 76ers on March 10 in Philadelphia. **MATT SLOCUM / AP**

UConn FOOTBALL

Power transfers

UConn ready to showcase a new look with fresh faces, different attitude

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

STORRS — UConn's football roster has had a lot of turnover since the end of last season, not a surprise following a 1-11 year and a coaching change. The new-look Huskies, with spring practices nearing the end, will put themselves on display for fans on Friday.

"You've got to come in with a clear eye and an open mind," said linebacker Marquez Bembry, a grad transfer from Kentucky. "Things don't sound pretty or look as pretty as they want them to look, but it's a process. I've been on this team through the spring now and there are a lot of players who are, like, gems, when you get up here and get around these dudes, it's special. People look from the outside in, but once you get inside out, this team is a really special team that's going to do a lot of special things."

Jim Mora's first UConn team finishes its 15-session spring practice on Friday at 7 p.m., on campus at Joe Morrone Stadium, the new soccer facility. It's a chance to reconnect the program with students, with home games 35 minutes away at Rentschler Field. The gates open and festivities begin at 5:30 p.m.

UConn's recent history, 7-48 the last four seasons, is not an issue to the many newcomers, like Bembry or Sokoya McDuffie, a redshirt junior from Old Dominion playing on the defensive line. They're bringing a positive attitude.

"People are going to see energy," McDuffie said. "They're going to see the love within the teammates, they're going to see the 'want to' to get better, the *drive* to want to get better. That's all we're focused on right now, being the best we can be."

The event was originally scheduled to be a Blue-White scrimmage, but the coaches have decided to organize it as a practice, with perhaps some 11-on-11 drills.

Turn to UConn, Page 2

More UConn news

Former UConn guard Christyn Williams out for first WNBA season with knee injury. **Page 4**

WNBA

'Seattle Huskies': Four former UConn players dominate Storm roster

By Lila Bromberg
Hartford Courant

Sitting alongside fellow former UConn women's basketball players Sue Bird and Evina Westbrook on Tuesday, Breanna Stewart jokingly pegged the WNBA's Storm as the "Seattle Huskies."

The Storm have had multiple Huskies leading the way for some time now,

including three last season with Bird and Stewart alongside Katie Lou Samuelson. That number bumps up to four this year with the addition of Westbrook through the draft as well as the acquisition of Gabby Williams through a trade with the Los Angeles Sparks for Samuelson. It's the most UConn players on any roster

Turn to Storm, Page 4



The Storm's Sue Bird, left, and Breanna Stewart, both former UConn stars, embrace after beating the Mercury in Game 5 of a WNBA playoff semifinal Sept. 4, 2018, in Seattle. **AP FILE**

RED BULLS 2, HARTFORD ATHLETIC 1

Making their pitch



Hartford Athletic goalkeeper Jimmy Slayton makes a save against the Red Bulls during a U.S. Open Cup soccer match Wednesday in Hartford. **JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

Despite loss to MLS New York, Hartford Athletic showcase how far soccer has come in Connecticut

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

At the club's inception four years ago Hartford Athletic supporters never thought the opportunity to play an MLS team would come so soon.

At 7 p.m. on Wednesday night, a sea of supporters donning blue and green apparel entered Trinity Health Stadium with cautious optimism. Despite no USL Championship wins on the season and sitting in last place in the Eastern Conference, Athletic fans beamed with pride at the opportunity to play the New York Red Bulls in the third round of the U.S. Open Cup. A crowd of 5,141 filled the stadium to watch the first official match against an MLS opponent.

Despite a 2-1 loss, the significance of the game was not lost on many.

"It's awesome, said Dan Almeida, a Hartford season-ticket holder, before the kickoff. "This has to be one of the biggest games ever, if not the biggest. It's just fun to see the national spotlight on Hartford. It means a lot."

"I don't think I've seen this much excitement surrounding a match, certainly not this season, but absolutely over the last few years," said Myke Furhman, leader of the Bonzana super-fan group.

Ultimately, the Red Bulls came away with the victory over the Athletic and eliminated them from the tournament. Midfielder Conor McGlynn scored the lone goal for Hartford at the 51-minute mark, which didn't make it easy for New York. That's what supporters hoped to see.

"With every soccer team I am a fan of you need to come out and give at least a 100 percent effort," said Dan Mathes. "Come out and give it a good effort. That's all I look for."

The match was an opportunity to show how the Athletic have expanded the sport in Connecticut.

"I think there were no expectations when Hartford got a team, we just knew it was a great opportunity," Mathes said. "I think they've exceeded expectations in the market. They've come a long way. They're on the right track. Every year they take a step forward."

Head coach Harry Watling felt the match showcased the growth the club has had over four years.

Turn to Soccer, Page 4

ICE SKATING

Olympic gold medalist Chen headlines Stars on Ice Tour in Hartford

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

Both Zach Donohue and Nathan Chen were lucky. The two skaters got to experience their Olympic medal ceremonies in Beijing back in February, with Chen winning the gold in figure skating and Donohue the bronze in ice dancing with partner Madison Hubbell.

Although both were

members of the silver medal-winning team, neither they nor the other skaters received their team medals after Russian skater Kamila Valieva was found to have tested positive for a banned drug. Valieva and her teammates won the team event before the December drug test was brought to light. The medal ceremony was postponed

Turn to Skating, Page 4

SPORTS

UP NEXT

Celtics: NBA First Round at Nets (Game 3), Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; NBA First Round at Nets (Game 4), Monday, 7 p.m.
Nets: NBA First Round vs. Celtics (Game 3), Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; NBA First Round vs. Celtics (Game 4), Monday, 7 p.m.
Bruins: at Penguins, Thursday, 7 p.m.; Rangers, Saturday, 3 p.m.; at Canadiens, Sunday, 7 p.m.
Rangers: at Islanders, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; at Bruins, Saturday, 3 p.m.; Hurricanes, Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Wolf Pack: Charlotte, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Bridgeport, Saturday, 7 p.m.; W-B/Scranton, Sunday, 3 p.m.
Red Sox: Blue Jays, Thursday, 1:30 p.m.; at Rays, Friday, 7 p.m.; Rays, Saturday, 6 p.m.
Yankees: at Tigers, Thursday, 1 p.m.; Guardians, Friday, 7 p.m.; Guardians, Saturday, 1 p.m.
Mets: Giants, Thursday, 1 p.m.; at Diamondbacks, Friday, 9:30 p.m.; at Diamondbacks, Saturday, 8 p.m.
Yard Goats: Somerset, Thursday, 7 p.m.; Somerset, Friday, 7 p.m.; Somerset, Saturday, 6 p.m.

TV/RADIO

BASEBALL
1 p.m.: Regional Coverage. (Live) MLB
1 p.m.: Yankees at Tigers. (Live) YES. Radio: 97.9
1 p.m.: Giants at Mets. (Live) SNY. Radio: 880
1:30 p.m.: Blue Jays at Red Sox. (Live) SPRTNET, NESN. Radio: 1080
6:30 p.m.: Regional Coverage. (Live) MLB
7 p.m.: Mississippi State at Ole Miss. (Live) SEC
8 p.m.: Missouri at LSU. (Live) ESPNU
9:30 p.m.: Regional Coverage. (Live) MLB
BASKETBALL
7:30 p.m.: Grizzlies at Timberwolves. (Live) TNT
9 p.m.: Mavericks at Jazz. (Live) NBA
10 p.m.: Warriors at Nuggets. (Live) TNT
GOLF
8 a.m.: DP World Tour Golf ISPS Handa Championship in Spain, First Round. (Live) GOLF
3:30 p.m.: Zurich Classic of New Orleans, First Round. (Live) GOLF
6:30 p.m.: DIO Implant LA Open, First Round. (Live) GOLF
HOCKEY
7 p.m.: Bruins at Penguins. (Live) SPRTNET, NESN
7:30 p.m.: Rangers at Islanders. (Live) MSG, ESPN+
8 p.m.: Maple Leafs at Lightning. (Live) ESPN
10:30 p.m.: Blackhawks at Kings. (Live) SPRTNET
LACROSSE
6 p.m.: North Carolina at Notre Dame. (Live) ACC
8 p.m.: Women's College: Duke at North Carolina. (Live) ACC
SOCCER
2:45 p.m.: Premier League Soccer Burnley vs Southampton. (Live) USA
SOFTBALL
8 p.m.: Clemson at Florida State. (Live) ESPN2

METS

McNeil's plate discipline driving his early resurgence

By Matthew Roberson
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — It's still far, far, too early in the Mets' season to make any bold declarations or draw any sort of hard conclusions.

Still, the team is 9-3, off to the best start of any team in the league. Surely, there will be pieces of that hot start that deteriorate or cool off as spring turns to summer. But nine wins in 12 games don't happen accidentally, and while some of the reasons for the Mets' rising stock are obvious

(Francisco Lindor slugging .619, the pitching staff making up for the lack of Jacob deGrom by all doing their best deGrom impression), there are some subtle adjustments that also seem to be taking hold.

By diving into the extremely limited data available thus far, one major thing that stands out is Jeff McNeil's plate discipline. The Flying Squirrel was in hell last year, when he went from a career .319 hitter to batting just .251 with a glaring lack of extra base hits. The early returns on his 2022 season have been strong

— though he's still making a ton of weak contact to produce mostly singles — and McNeil has shown a much more discerning eye in the batter's box.

According to FanGraphs, the Mets' scrappy contact hitter swung at 33.5% of the pitches he saw outside the strike zone last season. Through his first 47 plate appearances entering Wednesday night's game, that number is all the way down to 24.8%. While the numbers will stabilize as the year goes on, and McNeil is likely to trend back toward his career

habits, the patience he's shown thus far also points to a concerted effort to make the pitchers work.

Even when going 0-for-4 with a strikeout as he did in the second game of Tuesday's doubleheader, McNeil was a nuisance to Giants' pitching. He saw an average of 5.75 pitches during his four plate appearances, including two that lasted seven and nine pitches before ending in outs. There's value to that, especially when the likes of Lindor, Starling Marte or Pete Alonso are hitting behind him.



Yankees pitcher Luis Severino throws during the first inning against the Tigers on Wednesday at Comerica Park in Detroit. GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY

YANKEES

Severino is healthy, delivering exactly what the club needs

By Kristie Ackert
New York Daily News

DETROIT — Luis Severino had doubts. The right-hander has been through so many setbacks over the last three years it's only natural that he would sometimes get discouraged, sometimes worry that he wouldn't make it back. A tear in his lat muscle kept him out for all but the last month of the 2019 regular season. Tommy John surgery and a groin injury during his rehab.

"A bunch [of] times. ... Every time that you don't feel as well the next day after I try to pitch or when I was told I couldn't be a starter, that my arm couldn't handle that much work," Severino said of the times he doubted he would make it back. "Right now I'm just happy because my arm is responding pretty well and I did more pitches every time."

The Yankees have to be thrilled where Severino is as he takes the mound Wednesday night against the Tigers at Comerica Park. The 28-year-old is 1-0 with a 2.25 ERA in his first two starts of the season. He's healthy and not just back, but a wiser and better pitcher.

"He looks really good, better than I expected," one National League scout said. "Both starts, he looked strong, his stuff has really good life on it. The changeup is better than it was before [the injuries] and he's using it very effectively."

Through two starts, Severino has struck out 11 and walked two in eight innings pitched. He has a .219 batting average against and is in the 78 percentile in strike-out percentage and 76 percentile in walk percentage. He's got the highest ground ball rate of his career.

"Every time you gotta go out and throw five shutout [innings], it's not easy," Severino said. "We have a great team and got future MVPs all over the place. So every time I can go out there and throw a good game it's a good thing for me."

YANKEES NOTES

Gallo left out of starting lineup

By Kristie Ackert
New York Daily News

DETROIT — Joey Gallo was out of the lineup Wednesday after going 0-for-4 with four strikeouts on Tuesday night.

"I mean, whatever's best for the team. I know I haven't been getting great results right now," Gallo said before the Yankees took on the Tigers at Comerica Park. "It's part of the process of playing the full season and whatnot. There's guys playing really well, helping us win games. So I think that it's more important that these guys are gonna help us win and while I'm figuring it out."

Gallo had four hits through 11 games — all of them singles. He walked six times

and struck out 15 times in 33 at-bats this season.

He's slashed .121/.256/.121 with a .378 OPS so far this season.

Gallo has struggled since being traded to the Yankees from the Rangers at last year's deadline. In 58 games last season, Gallo slashed .160/.303/.404 with 13 homers in 118 at-bats. He struck out 88 times as a Yankee and 213 times overall in 2021.

Aaron Boone said the Yankees expect Gallo to get on base and hit for power. Right now he's not doing either.

He spent Wednesday in the cages "working his (butt) off," according to first-year hitting coach Dillon Lawson, who's actually encouraged by

what Gallo so far this year. Lawson even used Gallo as an example of how the Yankees' offense is ready to break out.

"Look at what Joey Gallo is doing to pitches in the strike zone," Lawson said.

Good to go: Without delving into the personal medical history of his players, Boone confirmed again that he expects the Yankees to have a full roster when they head to Toronto on May 1.

Unvaccinated players were given an exemption last year to travel to Canada and play the Blue Jays at the end of the 2021 season. That exemption expired in January and was not renewed. No foreigners are allowed to travel to Canada without being fully vaccinated.

RED SOX

Cora 'managed like it was a playoff game' to steal a win vs. Blue Jays

By Jason Mastrodonato
Boston Herald

BOSTON — For all that's been said and written about how well Alex Cora has been at getting the most out of his young players, his bullpen management can get overlooked.

It's fair to say Chaim Bloom hasn't overlooked it.

The Red Sox once again entered the season without any star relievers and no clear plan in the 'pen, where last year's All-Star closer Matt Barnes is now a middle reliever and the only sure-fire weapon at Cora's disposal is sophomore superstar Garrett Whitlock, who was supposed to be used as a swingman.

And yet the bullpen played the hero on Tuesday night, as Boston relievers shut down one of the game's premier offenses in the Toronto Blue Jays and preserved a 2-1 win at Fenway Park.

The bullpen was supposed to be a weak-

ness this year, but "everyone is working really hard to change that perception," said Hansel Robles, who threw 1 ½ perfect innings to extend his scoreless streak to 19 consecutive regular-season appearances.

Cora admitted he had no clear plan of what to do with this group entering the season. But after Sox relievers tossed 4 ½ scoreless innings on Tuesday, the bullpen now has a sparkling 3.17 ERA.

"We had an idea, but we're still learning," Cora said on how he's navigating the late innings with a bullpen that includes four new guys, three of which were signed during training. "It's not easy. I've been saying it all along, there are certain guys that have to step up."

If you would've drawn it up during the offseason, Whitlock looks like the ace in the hole with Barnes as the defacto closer and perhaps Ryan Brasier and Darwinzon Hernandez as the set-up guys.

RED SOX NOTES

Reliever Robles picking up where he left off during scoreless streak

By Steve Hewitt
Boston Herald

BOSTON — Hansel Robles had an atypical spring as he prepared for this season, but the Red Sox reliever has picked up right where he left off.

Robles — who emerged as one of Alex Cora's go-to arms down the stretch last season — signed a minor league deal late in spring, but his return wasn't simple. Visa issues forced him to stay home in the Dominican Republic before he finally joined the Red Sox in the final week of spring training.

The delay hasn't seemed to affect him. Robles earned the win for the Red Sox on Tuesday as he threw 1 ½ scoreless innings as part of a dominant bullpen effort, which increased his streak of consecutive scoreless appearances to 19 dating back to Aug. 30 of last season, a month after

he was acquired via trade from the Twins.

When Robles arrived at camp in Fort Myers, his readiness was apparent to Cora.

"He worked hard. With him as far as like, the physical part of it, we knew," Cora said. "The first day he showed up, he went with us to Port Charlotte to play catch with (Austin Davis). He was ready to go."

COVID issues resolving: The Red Sox didn't have any further positive tests of COVID-19 on Wednesday, Cora said. And the three players — Kevin Plawecki, Christian Vazquez and Jonathan Arauz — who tested positive at the beginning of the week are feeling better.

"They're going through protocol," Cora said. "We'll see what comes up later on (Wednesday). At least they feel good."

UConn

from Page 1

"What's in the past is in the past," Bembry said. "That 1-11? That's in the past. We're not a 1-11 team. We're a new team. That's what people need to realize and think about. This isn't a 1-11 team no more, be ready for it."

At the center of the fresh new approach is Mora, 60, who arrived at UConn with NFL head coaching experience with the Falcons and Seahawks, and in college at UCLA. Returning to coaching after a four-year absence, he's taken on the huge rebuilding task and overhauled the roster, selling incoming players on his vision and has been heavily engaged in the practices.

"Very, very passionate guy," Bembry said. "Loves the game of football and loves his players. It's more than just football. He wants you to succeed, not only on the football field but in the academic part as well. What can he do to help your transition to life after football, that's the main thing I love about Coach Mora."

Said McDuffie: "We talked on the phone for a good minute, and just listening to him talk, I knew that not only was he focusing on the way I played, but he was focused on me as an individual on

and off the field. He is a player-first coach. I feel I can call him any time of the day."

The Huskies will be showing their new offense, which will focus on a small number of plays with deception around them. Ta'Quan Roberson, the transfer from Penn State, has been taking a lot of the snaps at quarterback with Steven Krajewski, a holdover from last season. Tyler Phommachanh, recovering from a torn ACL, has been doing more in practice lately, throwing some passes Tuesday morning.

UConn's stable of running backs is still led by Nathan Carter, the most productive last season.

The defense is looking to profit from the talent and leadership of the veteran newcomers like Bembry, 6 feet 3 and 232 pounds, who played in 24 games for Kentucky at outside linebacker.

"Getting some of the younger guys to be more vocal is one of the main things," Bembry said. "Us on defense, we want to be hard on ourselves but we have to realize every play is not going to be perfect. There are going to be some plays you mess up, but how do you respond? That's what I feel like is our biggest challenge this spring, the offense was going to make plays, but how do we respond? Are we going to walk around here



Linebacker Marquez Bembry, shown at Kentucky chasing Mississippi State's Will Rogers, is bringing veteran leadership to UConn's defense as a grad transfer. ROGELIO V. SOLIS/AP

hanging our head? No. Pick your head up, play the next play and lets go."

MacDuffie, 6-4, 265, played in all

13 games at ODU, getting 28 tackles, 6.5 for a loss, and four sacks.

"It's a new game and a new feeling," MacDuffie said. "I'm ready to

go."

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BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Boston	6	5	.545	—	—	6-4	W-1	3-2	3-3
New York	6	5	.545	—	—	5-5	W-1	4-3	2-2
Toronto	6	5	.545	—	—	5-5	L-1	4-2	2-3
Tampa Bay	6	6	.500	½	½	4-6	W-1	4-3	2-3
Baltimore	4	8	.333	2 ½	2 ½	4-6	W-1	3-3	1-5

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Chicago	6	5	.545	—	—	6-4	L-3	4-2	2-3
Cleveland	6	5	.545	—	—	6-4	W-2	2-3	4-2
Kansas City	4	5	.444	1	1	4-5	W-2	4-4	0-1
Detroit	4	6	.400	1 ½	1 ½	4-6	L-2	2-5	2-1
Minnesota	4	7	.364	2	2	4-6	L-1	2-4	2-3

WEST	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Los Angeles	7	5	.583	—	—	7-3	W-1	3-3	4-2
Houston	6	5	.545	½	—	5-5	L-1	1-1	5-4
Seattle	6	5	.545	½	—	5-5	W-2	3-1	3-4
Oakland	7	6	.538	½	—	6-4	L-1	2-1	5-5
Texas	2	8	.200	4	3 ½	2-8	L-4	1-5	1-3

BOX SCORES

PHILADELPHIA 9, COLORADO 6

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Segura 2b	5	0	1	0	1	.242
Hoskins 1b	4	1	0	0	1	.220
Harper dh	5	1	1	0	1	.220
Castellanos rf	4	2	3	1	0	.306
Realuto c	5	0	0	0	2	.298
Schwarber lf	3	3	1	2	1	.170
Muzzioiti cf	0	0	0	0	0	.143
Bohm 3b	4	1	2	3	0	.476
Camargo ss	5	1	4	3	0	.382
Vierling cf-lf	3	0	0	0	1	.172
TOTALS	38	9	12	9	7	
Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Blackmon dh	5	1	1	0	1	.225
Grichuk rf	4	2	2	1	1	.333
Bryant lf	4	1	1	0	0	.349
Cron 1b	5	1	2	2	1	.333
McMahon 3b	5	0	2	3	2	.225
Rodgers 2b	4	0	0	0	2	.095
Liardard cf	3	0	0	0	2	.177
Trejo ss	4	0	0	0	2	.000
Nunez c	2	1	2	0	0	.333
a-Diaz ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	.297
TOTALS	37	6	12	6	9	

Philadelphia	000	301	500	—	9	12	0
Colorado	200	020	200	—	6	12	0

a-flie out for Nunez in the 8th.
LOB: Philadelphia 8, Colorado 8.
2B: Segura (2), McMahon (2(5), Nunez (1), Cron (3).
HR: Castellanos (3), off Marquez; Bohm (1), off Marquez; Schwarber (4), off Marquez; Camargo (1), off Gilbreath.
RBIs: Castellanos (7), Bohm (3(7), Schwarber (2(9), Camargo (3(5), McMahon (3(7), Grichuk (6), Cron (2(16).
SF: Bohm, Grichuk.
Runners left in scoring position: Philadelphia (2 Segura, Realuto); Colorado (5 Rodgers, Grichuk, Blackmon (2, Trejo).
RISP: Philadelphia 2for 8; Colorado 5for 13. **Runners moved up:** Bryant 2. **GIDP:** Hoskins, Cron.

DP: Philadelphia 1 (Segura, Hoskins); Colorado 1 (Trejo, Rodgers, Cron).
PHILADELPHIA IP H R ER BB SO ERA
 Eflin 5⅓ 9 4 4 0 0 5 5.27
 Hand, W, 1-0 ½ 0 0 0 1 1 0.00
 Familia 1 3 2 2 1 1 6.75
 Alvarado, H, 1 1 0 0 0 1 3.86
 Knebel, S, 2-2 1 0 0 0 0 1 0.00
COLORADO IP H R ER BB SO ERA
 Marquez 6 8 4 4 2 5 4.67
 Chacin, L, 2-1 ½ 2 3 3 1 8.10
 Gilbreath ⅔ 1 2 2 1 0 27.00
 Stephenson 1 1 0 0 0 1 0.00
 Estevez 1 0 0 0 0 0 2.08

Pitches-Strikes: Eflin 86-57; Hand 11-5; Familia 24-15; Alvarado 12-9; Knebel 12-8; Marquez 90-65; Chacin 13-7; Gilbreath 15-7; Stephenson 13-8; Estevez 9-5.
Inherited runners-scored: Hand 1-0, Gilbreath 3-3.
HBP: Eflin (Bryant), Gilbreath (Schwarber). **WP:** Hand, Marquez.
Umpires: Home, Dan Merzel; First, Bruce Dreckman; Second, Pat Hoberg; Third, Paul Emmel. T: 3:09. A: 21,490(50,445).

LATE TUESDAY:

ST. LOUIS 5, MIAMI 1

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Carlson rf	5	0	0	0	2	.158
Goldschmidt 1b5	1	2	0	1	1	.176
O'Neill lf	3	1	1	1	0	.281
Arenado 3b	4	0	0	0	0	.382
Pujols dh	3	2	2	0	0	.389
1-Noobthaar dh	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Edman 2b	4	0	2	2	0	.355
DeJong ss	3	1	1	1	1	.185
Molina c	4	0	0	0	0	.105
Bader cf	3	0	0	0	2	.219
TOTALS	34	5	8	4	6	
Miami	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Sanchez cf	4	0	2	0	2	.359
Cooper 1b	3	0	0	0	2	.233
Aguiar dh	3	0	0	0	0	.161
Wendle 3b-2b	4	0	2	0	0	.357
Garcia rf	2	0	0	0	1	.192
De La Cruz rf	2	1	1	1	1	.364
Anderson lf-3b	4	0	1	0	2	.280
Chisholm Jr. 2b2	0	0	0	0	0	.292
a-Soler ph-lf	2	0	0	0	1	.158
Stallings c	4	0	2	0	1	.179
Rojas ss	4	0	0	0	0	.171
TOTALS	34	1	8	1	10	

St. Louis	022	010	000	—	5	8	0
Miami	000	001	000	—	1	8	2

a-grounded out for Chisholm Jr. in the 6th. 1-ran for Pujols, 8th. E: Chisholm Jr. (1), De La Cruz (1). **LOB:** St. Louis 6, Miami 8. **2B:** Pujols (1), DeJong (2), Goldschmidt (2), Wendle (3). **3B:** Edman (1). **HR:** De La Cruz (1), off Wainwright. **RBIs:** DeJong (4), O'Neill (7), Edman (2(7), De La Cruz (2). **SB:** O'Neill (1), DeJong (2). **Runners left in scoring position:** St. Louis 4 (Carlson, Molina, DeJong 2); Miami 4 (Cooper, Anderson, Chisholm Jr., Garcia). **RISP:** St. Louis 3 for 11; Miami 0for 6. **Runners moved up:** Arenado, Anderson. **GIDP:** Edman, O'Neill. **DP:** Miami 2 (Rojas, Wendle, Cooper; Rojas, Cooper).

ST. LOUIS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Wainwright, W, 2-15⅓	5	1	1	2	6	2.81	
McFarland	1	2	0	0	0	0.00	
Helsley	1⅓	1	0	0	0	3.00	
Gallejos	1	0	0	0	1	0.00	
MIAMI	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Luzardo, L, 0-1	4⅓	7	5	4	2	3	4.82
Armstrong	1⅓	1	0	0	1	4.76	
Head	1	0	0	0	0	0.00	
Okert	1	0	0	0	1	2.08	
Scott	1	0	0	0	2	3.60	

Inherited runners-scored: McFarland 1-0, Helsley 1-0, Armstrong 2-1.

HBP: Okert (Pujols).

Umpires: Home, Mark Ripberger; First, Tom Hallion; Second, Phil Cuzzi; Third, Cory Blaser. T: 3:04. A: 8,475(36,742).

ON THIS DATE

APRIL 21

1910: The Indians played their first game at League Park and lost to the Tigers 5-0, in front of 19,867.
1955: The Brooklyn Dodgers beat the Phillies 14-4 at Ebbets Field for their 10th consecutive victory from the start of the season—a major league record that lasted until 1981.
1967: After 737 consecutive games, the Dodgers were rained out for the first time since moving to Los Angeles. The St. Louis Cardinals were scheduled.
1982: The Atlanta Braves beat the Cincinnati Reds 4-3 for their 13th straight victory.
1984: In his second start since August 1982, Montreal pitcher David Palmer threw five perfect innings against the St. Louis Cardinals in a 4-0 victory stopped by rain.
1987: The Milwaukee Brewers' 13-game winning streak from the start of the season ended with a 7-1 loss to the

Chicago White Sox. Milwaukee shared the major league streak of 13 straight, set by the Atlanta Braves in 1982.
1994: Eddie Murray set a major league record with his 11th switch-hit home run game, helping the Cleveland Indians beat the Minnesota Twins 10-6.
1996: Brady Anderson led off the first inning with a home run for the fourth straight game for Baltimore. The Texas Rangers overcame that homer, beating the Orioles 9-6.
2002: Randy Johnson struck out 17 batters while giving up two hits in Arizona's 7-1 win over Colorado.
2002: Atlanta's Rafael Furcal tied a modern major league record and became the first Braves player in 46 years to hit three triples in a game, as Atlanta beat Florida 4-2.
2006: Albert Pujols hit his major league leading 11th homer of the season and drove in four RBIs in St. Louis' 9-3 win over Chicago. Pujols' first inning two-run blast was his 1,000th career

hit. He became the fastest player in major league history to reach that milestone with 200 homers.
2012: Phil Humber threw the first perfect game in the majors in almost two years, leading the White Sox to a 4-0 victory over the Seattle Mariners. It was baseball's 21st perfect game and first since Philadelphia's Roy Halladay threw one against the Florida Marlins on May 29, 2010.
2012: Nick Swisher hit a grand slam to help the Yankees erase a nine-run deficit, then he added a two-run double to give them the lead as they posted back-to-back seven-run innings to beat Boston 15-9 at Fenway Park.
2014: Ike Davis became the first player to hit grand slams for different teams in the same April, and Neil Walker had a game-winning single with two outs in the ninth inning for Pittsburgh. The Pirates twice overcame deficits to beat the Cincinnati 6-5.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
New York	9	3	.750	—	—	7-3	W-3	4-1	5-2
Washington	6	7	.462	3 ½	2 ½	6-4	W-2	3-3	3-4
Atlanta	6	8	.429	4	3	4-6	L-1	3-4	3-4
Miami	4	6	.400	4	3	4-6	L-1	3-2	1-4
Philadelphia	5	8	.385	4 ½	3 ½	3-7	W-1	3-3	2-5

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
St. Louis	6	3	.667	—	—	6-3	W-1	3-1	3-2
Milwaukee	8	5	.615	—	½	7-3	W-4	5-2	3-3
Chicago	6	5	.545	1	1 ½	5-5	L-1	3-2	3-3
Pittsburgh	5	7	.417	2 ½	3	5-5	L-3	4-2	1-5
Cincinnati	2	11	.154	6	6 ½	1-9	L-9	0-2	2-9

WEST	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Los Angeles	9	3	.750	—	—	8-2	W-1	6-1	3-2
Colorado	8	4	.667	1	—	7-3	L-1	6-4	2-0
San Diego	9	5	.643	1	—	6-4	W-4	5-2	4-3
San Francisco	7	4	.636	1 ½	½	6-4	L-2	4-2	3-2
Arizona	3	8	.273	5 ½	4 ½	2-8	L-3	2-4	1-4

LATE TUESDAY/GAME 2:

WASHINGTON 1, ARIZONA 0

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Varsho cf	4	0	0	0	2	.171
Marte 2b	4	0	0	0	1	.171
Peralta lf	4	0	1	0	0	.216
Walker 1b	3	0	0	0	1	.118
Smith rf	4	0	3	0	1	.241
Beer dh	3	0	1	0	2	.393
C.Kelly c	3	0	0	0	1	.040
b-McCarthy ph	1	0	0	0	0	.118
Yo.Hrmandz 3b	2	0	0	0	0	.083
a-Hummler ph	1	0	0	0	1	.100
Alcantara 3b	1	0	0	0	0	.105
Perdomo ss	2	0	0	0	0	.045
TOTALS	32	0	5	0	9	
Washington	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
C.Hernandez 2b	4	0	1	1	0	.250
Soto rf	4	0	0	0	0	.250
Cruz dh	3	0	0	0	1	.191
Bell 1b	3	0	0	0	1	.340
Thomas lf	3	0	1	0	1	.179
Francis 3b	3	0	1	0	0	.283
Adams c	3	0	0	0	0	.091
Robles cf	3	1	1	0	1	.107
Fox ss	2	0	0	0	1	.000
TOTALS	28	1	4	1	5	

Arizona	000	000	000	—	0	5	1
Washington	000	001	00x	—	1	4	0

a-struck out for Yo.Hernandez in the 7th, b-popped out for C.Kelly in the 9th. E: Walker (1).
LOB: Arizona 8, Washington 5.
2B: Smith (1), C.Hernandez (2).
RBIs: C.Hernandez (2), S. Fox.
Runners left in scoring position: Arizona 4 (Alcantara 2, C.Kelly, Yo.Hernandez); Washington 2 (Thomas 2).
RISP: Arizona 1for 8; Washington 1for 4

ARIZONA	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Gilbert, L, 0-1	5⅓	3	1	1	1	3	1.59
Poppen	1⅓	1	0	0	2	1.50	
Mantiply	1	0	0	0	0	0.00	
WASHINGTON	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Adon, W, 1-2	6⅓	3	1	0	2	5	5.87
Arano, H, 2	⅔	0	0	0	0	2	5.77
Finnegan, H, 3	1	0	0	0	0	1	4.26
Rainey, S, 3-3	1	2	0	0	1	1	0.00
Pitches-Strikes: Gilbert 73-52; Poppen 15-10; Mantiply 9-7; don 88-57; Arano 12-6; Finnegan 14-10; Rainey 22-12.							
Batters Faced: Gilbert 22; Poppen 5; Mantiply 3; Adon 24; Arano 2; Finnegan 3; Rainey 6.							
Inherited runners-scored: Poppen 3-0, Arano 1-0.							
IBB: off Gilbert (Cruz).							
Umpires: Home, Ted Barrett; First, Lance Barksdale; Second, Nic Lentz; Third, Stu Scheuwater. T: 2:31. A: 11,720(41,339).							

LATE TUESDAY:

OAKLAND 2,

SPORTS

NFL NOTES

Jets sources: Samuel not going anywhere despite trade request

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — 49ers superstar wide receiver Deebo Samuel has requested a trade. The Jets make sense, but team sources don't believe the 49ers will move him because they can control his rights for up to three more years. However, the NFL is different now. Usually if a star player wants out, they eventually get their way. Jalen Ramsey, Deshaun Watson, Jamal Adams, Stefon Diggs, Tyreek Hill

and Russell Wilson are prime examples in recent years. The Jets have been in the market for a receiver to supercharge Zach Wilson's development in his second year. New York pursued Tyreek Hill and Amari Cooper. The team was interested in the Falcons' Calvin Ridley until he was suspended for the year for gambling and would have pursued the Chargers' Mike Williams but he was re-signed. Now Samuel is asking out of San Francisco, according to multiple

reports, and the Jets have the assets to make an attractive offer. Samuel isn't one of the best receivers in the league, he's one of the best players in the sport. Last season he finished with 77 catches, 1,405 yards and six touchdowns. He also displayed explosive versatility when the 49ers placed him in the back field, with 365 yards and eight touchdowns on 59 carries. That production earned Samuel first-team All-Pro honors. There's a connection between the Jets and Samuel: Robert Saleh was

the defensive coordinator for the 49ers from 2017-2020. Jets offensive coordinator Mike LaFleur was the passing game coordinator and receivers coach when Samuel was drafted in 2019. **Toney no-show for Giants camp:** Second-year wide receiver Kadarius Toney has not reported to the Giants' facility yet this month, including for this week's voluntary minicamp. So Toney still doesn't have new coach Brian Daboll's playbook. Toney's commitment came into

question behind the scenes during his rookie year, from lack of playbook study to poor meeting behavior to frequent injuries. This is not a good start to Year 2. "No. K.T.'s not here today," Daboll said on Day 2 of voluntary minicamp. "This is a voluntary camp. The guys that are here, we're going to work with. The guys that aren't, they're going to miss out on some things... I've had good talks with K.T. We didn't do anything virtual. So when he gets here, he'll get the playbook, and we'll catch him up to speed."



Hartford Athletic midfielder Mads Jorgensen pressures New York Red Bulls midfielder Frankie Amaya, left, during a U.S. Open Cup soccer match on Wednesday. JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Soccer

from Page 1

"The place was packed," he said. "We were playing against a really, really good MLS team that are in the top part of their league. We competed with them. We made a game of it. Our fans really got behind us again. It's really important we compete in

every game like that. We are talking about a club that has just been a start-up and now filling out a stadium, exciting people and exciting the city." From the opening minute the Red Bulls applied pressure on the Athletic defense with their forwards. In the 18th minute Red Bull midfielder Lewis Morgan delivered a strike in the back of the net to put them up 1-0.

Just seven minutes later, at 25 minutes, Aaron Long scored off a rebound save by Hartford goalie Jimmy Slayton, the Wethersfield native making his second start, to give New York a 2-0 lead. Hartford got on the scoreboard as midfielder Daniel Barrera sent a pass to McGlynn, who converted the opportunity, cutting the New York lead to 2-1.

Skating

from Page 1

and never rescheduled. Donohue, who grew up in Madison, and Chen, who goes to Yale, will be in Hartford Saturday night at 7:30 at the XL Center as part of the Stars on Ice Tour, along with other Olympians, including team silver medalists Madison Chock and Evan Bates, Karen Chen, Alexa Knierem and Brandon Frazier and Vincent Zhou.

"We have not received our team medals yet," Donohue said. "They're in deliberations now. We get updates, letting us know it's being looked into and they haven't forgotten about us but as of right now, we still have not heard about them reaching a decision.

"When it comes to speculating on what should or shouldn't have happened, it's not something that I feel that there's a point to talking about because what happened did happen. What I care about is that the effect of this decision, of making such a public statement, and taking this into account and not giving anyone a medal, my hope is that it has a bigger effect on the sport long-term. Of course it's difficult for the athletes. I'm one of the lucky few that received an individual medal but there's a lot of members of the team that didn't get to have that moment." Donohue and Hubbell had planned to retire after the Olympics and came back one more time after finishing fourth in the 2018 Games. The pair won the silver at the world championships in France in late March to end their professional careers. "I think that 'winning an Olympic medal' hasn't really settled in yet because we went from the Games to the worlds and now we're on Stars," Donohue said. "It's a whirlwind. I think



Nathan Chen, of the United States, competes Feb. 10 in the men's free skate program during the figure skating event at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing. Chen won the gold medal. JAE C. HONG/AP

now that we're all back together for the first time since the Games - we were all on different timing at the worlds, so didn't see each other too much. Nathan wasn't there. Now we're all together, we're looking forward to celebrating each other's success." Chen did not compete in the world championships due to an undisclosed injury. "I'm still working through [the injury]," Chen said. "At some point, I will disclose more information about it but right now, no. I'm not able to do the same stuff I would do in competition but shows don't require the same level of technique. I'm doing what I can do right now."

Chen, 22, said he planned to go back to Yale in the fall. He has two more years of school left. "From there, I'll decide what I want to do," he said. "It's still pretty TBD right now [his plans to keep skating competitively]. Right now, I'm doing Stars on Ice, then when I get back to school, I'll be preoccupied, but I skated before when I was at school, so it's not something that's off the charts." Donohue said he had time to visit with his family, including his mother who still lives in Madison, after the Olympics and his mother was planning to go to some of the shows. After the Stars tour is over, he and his girlfriend

are going on vacation, then coming back to the U.S. to start a business encompassing athletics and skating. "I'll be staying in the sport but taking a different approach," he said. "Part of the business will be coaching, educating athletes, not just in skating but in general athletics and their health. "I've always wanted to be a coach. It's evolved into the impact I want to have on the sport. I really want to affect the health, both physically and mentally of the athletes, as well as helping other disciplines outside of ice dance to evolve and become more efficient."

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Celtics

from Page 1

said, the 25-year-old All-Star forward practiced in a four-on-four setting with contact for the first time since injuring his back. As Nash spoke, Simmons walked past the small pool of reporters gathered for the Nets' shootaround on the TD Garden court. "Ben's doing well," Nash said. "He's gonna work out again today, see if he continues to improve. So he's still progressing and moving forward." Simmons participated in the four-on-four on Monday, then a five-on-zero walk-through Tuesday that Nash defined as "scripting." He said the scripting is important so that Simmons knows what actions the team is trying to run if he does make his debut, but Nash hedged that thought process with the adjustments that come in playoff basketball. "If he's able to play at some point, [it's important] having

him become as familiar as possible with what we're doing because things change from day to day," Nash said. "You're making adjustments, so having him be involved with all of that stuff [is critical] so if he is able to play at some point, he's comfortable." It remains unclear whether Simmons has progressed enough to play in Game 3 at Barclays Center on Saturday. Nash did not rule Simmons out for the Nets' first home playoff game but said the Nets may be cautious given how long the star forward has gone since playing an NBA game. "I wouldn't be able to say anything about that because I'm not even sure how he's gonna get through these weeks," Nash said after Tuesday's practice at Harvard. "We have to also consider it's a nine-month absence, or whatever it is, so it's not just like he had a six-week absence. I think it's a pretty unique scenario and it's not as linear as the other in-season injuries."

Storm

from Page 1

in the WNBA. "We do all kind of have the same background, that pedigree, and we always look out for each other," Bird said. "So I think it's a great spot for (Westbrook) to come into a place that has other UConn players. And the program, I know they haven't won in a couple years, but one thing they do is get people ready for the WNBA." Bird and Stewart both said they were excited when the Storm selected Westbrook with the 21st pick. "I think that she's a player that can obviously affect the game on both ends," Stewart said. "She's smart, she's kind of been through it all on and off the court and just gives us a new presence that we need. And there is a UConn connection because no matter if we play together or not it's a family, and just wanting to continue to help her along in this process as she helps us."

Westbrook said the first three days of training camp have "been a huge adjustment so far." As is the case for many rookies, the 6-foot guard has felt a bit out of sync at times as she gets the hang of each drill and how the team operates. But having familiar veterans like Bird and Stewart (Williams is still finishing her season overseas) has helped the process. "They've been rookies once so they totally understand what it's like," Westbrook said. "Like Sue said, we have the same type of pedigree coming from Connecticut. Coach [Geno Auriemma] does get us ready with everything that we've been through. ... So I definitely felt ready to come in, I just knew it was gonna be a big change. And it has been, but it's just about adjusting each and every day and they've been telling us that." Bird believes that Westbrook's versatility will help

the Storm this season, adding that there is a lot in the rookie's game that she hasn't even tapped into yet. Meanwhile, the 41-year-old Bird, who has often talked publicly about how much she's grappled with the decision of when to retire, is about to enter her 19th season in the league. "Of course I want to win," Bird said. "That's where the good stuff is, right? Like that journey with a team trying to get to the finals, trying to get to the championship trophy so you can hoist that thing up." The WNBA's all-time assist leader said she didn't change too much in terms of her conditioning over the offseason, but she has had to be more aware of how her body is changing to fine-tune certain areas. "That's really it, just trying to be in the best shape possible," Bird said. "But nothing (is) like playing basketball. So just like everyone else, I'm getting tuned up in training camp." Stewart has been easing back into training camp after undergoing a minor preventative Achilles procedure last October, according to an ESPN report. "Just really trying to get a lot of reps, a lot of game action, scrimmage action, and taking it one day at a time and just doing what I can to get back out on the court," Stewart said. "I think I've been doing five on five since March. Now it's a little bit quicker, the ramp up, but I'll be ready when the first game starts." The Storm are set to play another UConn-heavy squad in their final preseason game on April 28 when they face the Phoenix Mercury, led by Diana Taurasi and Tina Charles — Kia Nurse is also on the roster but recovering from a torn ACL.

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Williams out for first WNBA season

By Lila Bromberg
Hartford Courant

Christyn Williams will miss her rookie season in the WNBA. The former UConn women's basketball guard suffered a season-ending knee injury in training camp, the Washington Mystics announced on Wednesday. Williams was drafted 14th overall by the franchise earlier this month. "We are heartbroken for Christyn and will miss her greatly," Mystics general manager and head coach Mike Thibault said, per release. "She was off to a

terrific start in training camp and I know she will work diligently to make a comeback next season." Williams will undergo surgery. As of now, there is no timeline for her return. "She will have our full support and all of our resources during her rehab," Thibault said. "She is part of the Mystics family." In her senior season at UConn, Williams averaged 14.2 points, 3.4 rebounds and 2.3 assists. She earned the Ann Meyers Drysdale award as the nation's top shooting guard and was named an All-Big East first-team selection in each of the last two years.

SCOREBOARD

NBA

PLAYOFF SCHEDULE
EAST FIRST ROUND
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)
#1 Miami 2, #8 Atlanta 0
April 17: Miami 115-91
April 19: Miami 115-105
Friday: at Atlanta, 6 p.m.
Sunday: at Atlanta, 6 p.m.
x-Tuesday: at Miami, TBD
x-April 28: at Atlanta, TBD
x-April 30: at Miami, TBD

#2 Boston 1, #7 Brooklyn 0
April 17: Boston 115-114
Wednesday: at Boston, late
Saturday: at Brooklyn, 6:30 p.m.
Monday: at Brooklyn, 7 p.m.
x-April 27: at Boston, TBD
x-April 29: at Brooklyn, TBD
x-May 1: at Boston, TBD

#3 Milwaukee 1, #6 Chicago 0
April 17: Milwaukee 93-86
Wednesday: at Milwaukee, late
Friday: at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday: at Chicago, noon
x-April 27: at Milwaukee, TBD
x-April 29: at Chicago, TBD
x-May 1: at Milwaukee, TBD

#4 Philadelphia 2, #5 Toronto 0
April 16: Philadelphia 131-111
April 18: Philadelphia 112-97
Wednesday: at Toronto, late
Friday: at Toronto, 1 p.m.
x-Monday: at Philadelphia, TBD
x-April 28: at Toronto, TBD
x-April 30: at Philadelphia, TBD

WEST FIRST ROUND
#1 Phoenix 1, #8 New Orleans 1
April 17: Phoenix 110-99
April 19: New Orleans 125-114
Friday: at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.
Sunday: at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.
Tuesday: at Phoenix, TBD
x-April 28: at New Orleans, TBD
x-April 30: at Phoenix, TBD

#2 Memphis 1, #7 Minnesota 1
April 16: Minnesota 130-117
April 19: Memphis 124-96
Thursday: at Minnesota, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday: at Minnesota, 9 p.m.
Tuesday: at Memphis, TBD
x-April 29: at Minnesota, TBD
x-May 1: at Memphis, TBD

#3 Golden State 2, #6 Denver 0
April 16: Golden State 123-107
April 18: Golden State 126-106
Thursday: at Denver, 9 p.m.
Sunday: at Denver, 2:30 p.m.
x-April 27: at Golden State, TBD
x-April 29: at Denver, TBD
x-May 1: at Golden State, TBD

#4 Dallas 1, #5 Utah 1
April 16: Utah 99-93
April 18: Dallas 110-104
Thursday: at Utah, 8 p.m.
Saturday: at Utah, 3:30 p.m.
Monday: at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.
x-April 28: at Utah, TBD
x-April 30: at Dallas, TBD

TENNIS

WTA PORSCHE TENNIS GRAND PRIX
At Porsche Arena, Stuttgart, Germany, Red clay-outdoors
WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16
#1 Iga Swiatek d. Eva Lys, 6-1, 6-1.
WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 32
#5 Anett Kontaveit d. Angelique Kerber, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.
#6 Karolina Pliskova d. Petra Kvitova, 6-4, 4-6, 7-6(5).
#8 Emma Raducanu d. Storm Sanders, 6-1, 6-2.
Laura Siegemund d. Tamara Zidansek, 6-3, 6-3.

ATP BARCELONA OPEN BANC SABADELL
At Real Club de Tennis Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain; Red clay-outdoors
MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 32
#3 Felix Auger-Aliassime d. Carlos Taberner, 6-1, 3-6, 6-4.
#5 Carlos Alcaraz d. Kwon Soon Woo, 6-1, 2-6, 6-2.
#8 Pablo Carreno Busta d. Bernabe Zapata Miralles, 6-3, 6-3.
Jaume Munar d. #9 Nikoloz Basilashvili, 6-1, 6-4.
#10 Alex de Minaur d. Ugo Humbert, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.
#13 Frances Tiafoe d. Hugo Delien, 7-6(3), 6-1.
Marton Fucsovics d. #15 Federico Delbonis, 6-2, 6-1.
Emil Ruusuvuori d. #16 Alexander Bublik, 6-3, 6-1.
Lloyd Harris d. #17 Albert Ramos-Vinolas, 6-3, 6-4.

ATP BELGRADE OPEN
At Novak Tennis Center, Belgrade, Serbia; Red clay-outdoors
MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16
#1 Novak Djokovic d. Laslo Djere, 2-6, 7-6(6), 7-6(4).
#3 Karen Khachanov d. Roman Safullin, walkover.
#7 Miomir Kecmanovic d. John Millman, 6-4, 7-6(5).
Thiago Monteiro d. #8 Filip Kratinovic, 6-4, 6-1.

WTA TEB BNP PARIBAS CHAMPIONSHIP ISTANBUL CUP
At Garanti Koza Arena, Istanbul, Red clay-outdoors
WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16
#2 Sorana Cirstea d. Arantxa Rus, 3-6, 6-1, 7-5.
Julia Grabher d. #5 Jill Teichmann, 6-4, 6-4.
Anna Bondar, d. Nuria Parrizas Diaz, 6-4, 6-2.
WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 32
Rebecca Peterson d. #1 Elise Mertens, 7-5, 4-1, ret.
Petra Martic d. #4 Anhelina Kalinina, 2-6, 7-5, 7-6(5).
#6 Ajla Tomljanovic d. Jaimee Fourlis, 6-1, 6-3.
#7 Sara Sorribes Tormo d. Wang Qiang, 6-3, 6-2.
Varvara Gracheva d. Marie Bouzkova, 6-3, 7-5.
Anastasia Potapova d. Nikola Bartunkova, 6-1, 6-4.
Yulia Putintseva d. Magda Linette, 7-6(6), 6-4.
Lesia Tsurenko d. Anna-Karolina Schmiedlova, 6-0, 6-2.

GOLF

PGA TOUR LEADERS			
SCRAMBLING	PCT.	PAR OR MISS	BETTER GIR
Matt Kuchar	72.69	197	271
Shane Lowry	71.52	113	158
Sungjae Im	70.04	194	277
Daniel Berger	68.75	110	160
Mark Hubbard	68.33	123	180
Denny McCarthy	68.19	253	371
Justin Thomas	68.16	152	223
Matt Fitzpatrick	67.89	129	193
Jonathan Byrd	67.86	133	196
Tom Hoge	67.74	252	372
Alex Noren	67.29	181	269
Kevin Streelman	67.18	219	326
Patrick Cantlay	67.06	114	170
C. Bezuidenhout	67.03	187	279
Troy Merritt	66.76	227	340
Mito Pereira	66.67	200	300
Jordan Spieth	66.67	124	186
Chase Seifert	66.45	101	152
Andrew Novak	66.02	171	259
Brendon Todd	65.65	216	329
Michael Thompson	65.24	214	328
Luke Donald	65.20	148	227
Ryan Armour	65.16	101	155
Adam Long	65.11	237	364
Martin Laird	65.00	130	200
Seamus Power	64.98	167	257
Tommy Fleetwood	64.97	128	197
Greyson Sigg	64.90	220	339
Scottie Snedden	64.86	203	313
J.T. Poston	64.84	177	273
Mark Leishman	64.81	151	233
Scott Gutschewski	64.77	125	193
William McGirt	64.67	108	163
Adam Hadwin	64.66	183	267
Brian Harman	64.47	176	273
Andrew Pittnam	64.42	210	326
Keith Mitchell	64.29	162	252
Brian Stuard	64.23	246	383

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
x-Florida	76	55	15	6	116	320	220		
x-Toronto	77	51	20	6	108	300	237		
x-Tampa Bay	76	46	22	8	100	253	216		
x-Boston	76	47	24	5	99	236	205		
Detroit	77	30	37	10	70	218	294		
Buffalo	78	29	38	11	69	219	278		
Ottawa	77	29	41	7	65	210	251		
Montreal	77	20	46	11	51	197	297		
METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
x-Carolina	77	49	20	8	106	256	190		
x-N.Y. Rangers	77	50	21	6	106	238	191		
x-Pittsburgh	77	43	23	11	97	254	215		
x-Washington	76	43	23	10	96	263	225		
N.Y. Islanders	76	35	31	10	80	210	213		
Columbus	77	35	36	6	76	247	285		
New Jersey	76	27	42	7	61	234	280		
Philadelphia	77	23	43	11	57	198	283		

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
z-Colorado	76	55	15	6	116	296	209		
x-Minnesota	76	48	21	7	103	283	235		
x-St. Louis	77	46	20	11	103	290	222		
Nashville	77	44	28	5	93	247	227		
Dallas	76	43	28	5	91	221	227		
Winnipeg	77	35	31	11	81	235	248		
Chicago	76	25	40	11	61	204	273		
Arizona	76	22	49	5	49	186	292		
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
x-Calgary	77	47	20	10	104	275	193		
Edmonton	76	44	26	6	94	264	235		
Los Angeles	78	41	27	10	92	224	227		
Vegas	77	41	31	5	87	246	229		
Vancouver	77	38	28	11	87	233	217		
Anaheim	78	30	34	14	74	220	255		
San Jose	76	30	34	12	72	198	243		
Seattle	75	25	44	6	56	197	260		

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.
x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Dallas at Edmonton, late
Chicago at Arizona, late
Colorado at Seattle, late
Washington at Vegas, late

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Boston at Pittsburgh, 7p.m.
Buffalo at New Jersey, 7p.m.
Detroit at Florida, 7p.m.
Philadelphia at Montreal, 7p.m.
Winnipeg at Carolina, 7p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30p.m.
Toronto at Tampa Bay, 8p.m.
Vancouver at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Dallas at Calgary, 9p.m.
Chicago at Los Angeles, 10:30p.m.
St. Louis at San Jose, 10:30p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Atlanta at Columbus, 7p.m.
Seattle at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Colorado at Edmonton, 9p.m.
Washington at Arizona, 10:30p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Carolina at New Jersey, 12:30p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Buffalo, 12:30p.m.
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 12:30p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Boston, 3p.m.
Montreal at Ottawa, 7p.m.
Nashville at Tampa Bay, 7p.m.
Toronto at Florida, 7p.m.
Chicago at San Jose, 8p.m.
Seattle at Dallas, 8p.m.
St. Louis at Arizona, 10p.m.
Vancouver at Calgary, 10p.m.
Anaheim at Los Angeles, 10:30p.m.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
N.Y. Rangers 3, Winnipeg 0
Toronto 5, Philadelphia 2
Minnesota 2, Montreal 0
Detroit 4, Tampa Bay 3
Florida 3, N.Y. Islanders 2, OT
Boston 3, St. Louis 2 (OT)
Ottawa 4, Vancouver 3 (SO)
Nashville 3, Calgary 2 (SO)
Los Angeles 2, Anaheim 1
San Jose 3, Columbus 2

SHOTS ON GOAL LEADERS				
TEAM	GP	SOG	SOG%	
Florida	76	2871	11.041	
Boston	76	2737	8.550	
Calgary	77	2736	9.978	
Los Angeles	78	2726	8.070	
Colorado	76	2671	10.932	
Toronto	77	2669	11.165	
Pittsburgh	77	2657	9.447	
Vegas	77	2634	9.188	
Carolina	77	2617	9.744	
Edmonton	76	2572	10.109	
Winnipeg	77	2482	9.388	
Vancouver	77	2470	9.312	
Minnesota	76	2467	11.269	
New Jersey	76	2401	9.621	
Washington	76	2387	10.809	
Philadelphia	77	2359	8.351	
St. Louis	77	2344	12.287	
Tampa Bay	76	2334	10.754	
Dallas	76	2318	9.362	
Buffalo	78	2317	9.322	
Ottawa	77	2314	8.989	
Columbus	77	2306	10.538	
Anaheim	78	2303	9.379	
Nashville	77	2300	10.609	
Detroit	77	2280	9.430	
Montreal	77	2274	8.531	
N.Y. Rangers	77	2244	10.428	
San Jose	76	2230	8.789	
N.Y. Islanders	76	2201	9.450	
Chicago	76	2184	9.112	
Seattle	75	2158	8.990	
Arizona	76	1957	9.453	

SHOTS				
SHOTS	TM	SOG	S%	SPG
Auston Matthews	TOR	330	17.6	4.71
Alex Ovechkin	WSH	321	15.0	4.34
Timo Meier	SJS	305	10.8	4.30
David Pastrnak	BOS	304	12.5	4.41
Connor McDavid	EDM	302	13.9	4.03
Kyle Connor	WPG	300	14.3	4.05
Nathan MacKinnon	COL	277	11.2	4.62
Patrice Bergeron	BOS	269	7.4	3.96
Kirill Kaprizov	MIN	268	16.0	3.57
Brady Tkachuk	OTT	268	10.4	3.62
Patrick Kane	CHI	265	9.4	3.68

SHOTS AGAINST				
SHOTS AGAINST	TM	SV%	SV	S
Con. Hellebuyck	WPG	909	1900	2091
Juuse Saros	NSH	920	1880	2044
Thatcher Demko	VAN	917	1748	1906
Elvis Merzlikins	CBJ	905	1591	1758
John Gibson	ANA	905	1581	1747
Andrei Vasilevsky	PIT	916	1588	1734
Tristan Jarry	TBL	919	1573	1711
Jacob Markstrom	CGY	923	1574	1706
Alex Nedeljkovic	DET	901	1533	1701
through Tuesday; nhl.com				




GREENS IN REGUL.				
GREENS IN REGUL.	RD	GIR PCT.	GRN HIT	
Jon Rahm	38	73.53	450	
Russell Knox	59	73.35	779	
Corey Conners	54	71.63	606	
Seamus Power	55	71.44	385	
643Morikawa	34	71.30	306	
Scottie Scheffler	53	71.26	590	
Joel Dahmen	53	71.07	678	
Cameron Smith	32	71.01	409	
Russell Henley	53	70.89	638	
Adam Hadwin	54	70.88	689	
Luke List	51	70.83	612	
Mito Pereira	57	70.76	726	
Sam Burns	40	70.69	509	
Will Zalatoris	45	70.56	508	
Hideki Matsuyama	45	70.49	571	
Sungjae Im	55	70.41	659	
Lucas Glover	55	70.40	697	
Ryan Moore	23	70.29	291	
Cameron Tringale	55	70.09	656	
Viktor Hovland	41	70.03	479	
Talor Gooch	58	70.00	693	
Justin Lower	34	69.77	427	
Taylor Pendrith	51	69.72	640	
Hayden Buckley	49	69.61	614	
Jordan Spieth	37	69.61	426	
Joseph Bramlett	53	69.60	664	
Charles Howell III	36	69.60	451	
Billy Horschel	42	69.59	476	
Keith Mitchell	49	69.57	576	
Tony Finau	39	69.44	450	
Aaron Wise	44	69.44	550	
Matthew NeSmith	56	69.35	699	
Nick Watney	52	69.34	649	
Ryan Armour	28	69.25	349	
Louis Oosthuizen	29	69.23	324	
Marc Leishman	45	69.18	523	
Jhonnatan Vegas	47	69.15	585	
Martin Laird	36	69.14	448	
Xander Schauffele	35	69.10	398	
Justin Thomas	43	69.03	497	

SOCCER

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER		
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WEATHER

THURSDAY



SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Thickening cloudiness, slight chance for a shower or a sprinkle late, breezy and seasonable.




HIGH

60°

LOW

45°

FRIDAY



SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Sunny, breezy and delightful.




HIGH

68°

LOW

40°

SATURDAY



SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Partly sunny and seasonable.




HIGH

65°

LOW

46°

SUNDAY



SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Considerable cloudiness and seasonable.




HIGH

64°

LOW

45°

MONDAY



SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Considerable cloudiness and seasonable.


HIGH

64°

LOW

48°

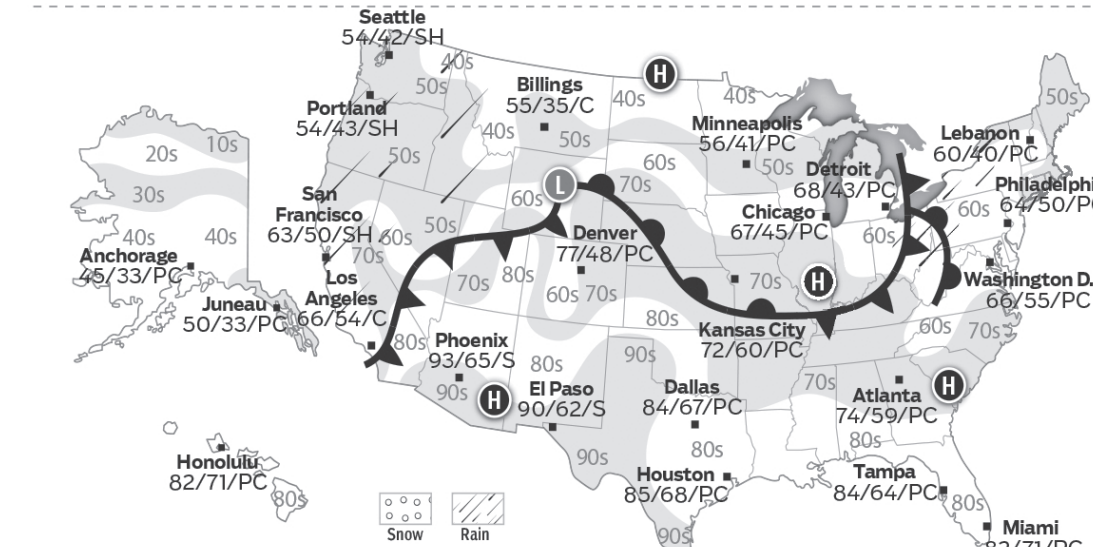
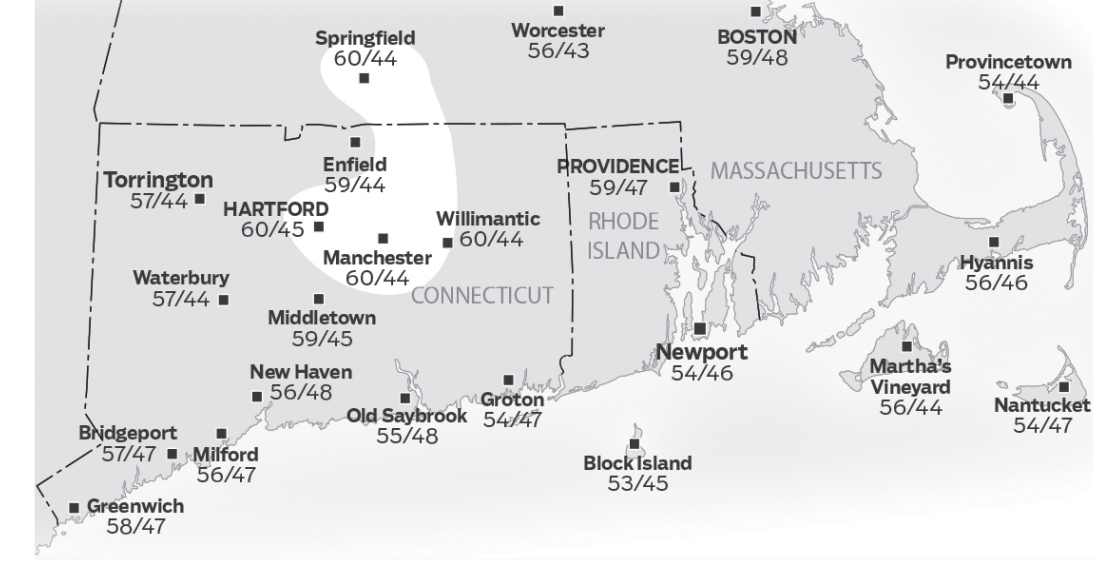
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YOURCAST



OUTLOOK

A warm front in western portions of New York and Pennsylvania on Thursday will cause thickening cloudiness in Connecticut, along with the chance for an isolated late day or early evening shower or sprinkle. High temperatures will be a few degrees cooler than normal with readings in the mid-50s to near 60 degrees. It will remain breezy, as has been the case all week, especially during the afternoon when peak gusts up to 30 mph are possible. High pressure will bring sunshine, breezy and mild conditions on Friday with high temperatures climbing through the 60s.

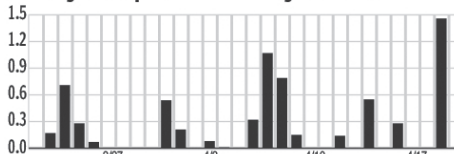
-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

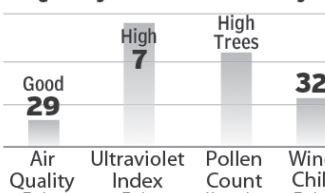
Precipitation in Inches	Total Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.00 0.12
Month to date	5.06 2.54
Total this year	14.54 12.76

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

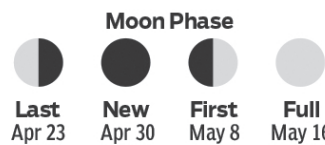
30-day Precipitation History in Inches



Air Quality Forecast For Today



	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	6:02 a.m.	6:00 a.m.
Sunset	7:37 p.m.	7:38 p.m.
Moonrise	12:44 a.m.	1:47 a.m.
Moonset	9:30 a.m.	10:35 a.m.



Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	1:22 a.m.	8:21 a.m.	52°
Saybrook Jetty	2:01 p.m.	8:26 p.m.	
Connecticut River at Portland	5:16 a.m.	12:02 a.m.	
Madison	5:55 p.m.	1:00 p.m.	
New Haven	3:12 a.m.	9:43 a.m.	48°
Stamford	3:16 a.m.	9:57 a.m.	47°
River Stage at Hartford	12:07 feet at 6:30 p.m.		

Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W Vcloudy	L.I. Sound E Vcloudy	B.I. Sound Vcloudy
Wind	SE/S, 5-15	SE/S, 5-15	SE/S, 5-15
Seas	1-2 ft.	1-3 ft.	2-3 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Wednesday	57 at 3:38 p.m.	40 at 4:44 a.m.
Normal for date	63	40
Record for date	89 in 1976	25 in 1926
A year ago	74	37
Range this year	78	-2

AROUND THE WORLD

NEW ENGLAND	Goals:	NATION	KEY:
Bangor 53 39 PC		Albany 58 44 C	S Sunny, C Cloudy, PC Partly Cloudy, R Rain, SH Showers, SN Snow, SF Snow Flurries, T T-storms
Burlington 56 44 C		Albuquerque 81 54 S	
Caribou 53 34 PC		Atlantic City 61 45 PC	
Concord 60 39 PC			
Montpelier 54 38 C			
Mt. Wash. 32 19 C			
Portland 51 42 PC			
Woods Hole 55 44 PC			

WORLD	Goals:	WORLD	Goals:
Budapest 63 42 PC		Amsterdam 63 45 S	
Lisbon 64 50 SH		Athens 68 52 S	
London 57 50 C		Bangkok 93 82 T	
Madrid 63 46 S		Barbados 77 48 PC	
Mexico City 91 72 C		Beirut 69 55 PC	
Milan 68 54 C		Berlin 57 45 C	
Montreal 50 43 R		Bermuda 71 65 SH	
Moscow 48 41 R			
Nassau 86 70 SH			
New Delhi 102 75 T			
Paris 68 50 S			
Prague 54 39 C			
Rio de Janeiro 86 64 PC			
Rome 72 48 T			
Seoul 72 54 C			
Singapore 93 75 T			

Heating Degree Days	Season	Normal	Last Season
For July 1 - April 20	5041	5537	5111

30-day Temperature History

Atmosphere

High	Low
30.38 at 7 p.m.	29.91 at 12 a.m.

Barometer

High	Low
28° at 4 a.m.	17° at 6 p.m.

Dew point

TUESDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BASEBALL
Others
EAST HARTFORD 10, WINDSOR LOCKS 9
WL 422-001-0—9-12-2
EH 000-170-2—10-14-4
WP: Isaac Quiles. LP: Allen Hinckley. Rec.: EH—2-3; WL—1-4.

GIRLS LACROSSE
CCC-North
SIMSBURY 13, SOUTH WINDSOR 6
Goals: S—Elena Bontatibus (5), Reece Williams (3), Sofia Smith, Liv Francis, Taylor Trutin, McKenna Pennington, Sarah Perlit; SW—Maliya Haddock (3), Emma Larnica, Hailey Deputi. Saves: S—Kailyn O'Brien, 6; SW—Ciara Styles, 11. Rec.: S—2-2; SW—3-1.

BOYS TRACK & FIELD
NCCC
GRANBY 97, EAST WINDSOR 52
GRANBY 78, BOLTON 66
BOLTON 95, EAST WINDSOR 49
CANTON 100, COVENTRY 48
CANTON 83.5, STAFFORD 65.5
STAFFORD 101, COVENTRY 34

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD
NCCC
BOLTON 98, EAST WINDSOR 47
BOLTON 95, GRANBY 50
GRANBY 98, EAST WINDSOR 44
CANTON 104.67, COVENTRY 42.33
CANTON 81.5, STAFFORD 68.5
STAFFORD 90, COVENTRY 55

WEDNESDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS
BASEBALL
CCC-North
HARTFORD PUBLIC/HMTCA 23, BLOOMFIELD CO-OP 12
HP 732-0(11)—23-12-2
B 410-52—12-11-3
WP: Carlos Torres. LP: Martin Aponte. Rec.: HP—1-6; B—2-5.
CCC-Inter
NEWINGTON 12, SOUTH WINDSOR 4
N 106-111-2—12-7-3
SW 000-120-1—4-5-6
WP: Gavin Gray. LP: Sam Pines. HR: N—Shaun Callahan; SW—Pines. Rec.: N—5-0; SW—0-5.
WINDSOR 5, GLASTONBURY 4
W 000-031-1—5-6-3
G 030-000-1—4-8-2
WP: Ryan Cramer. LP: Owen Stephens. Rec.: W—6-0; G—5-1.
BRISTOL EASTERN 6, NEW BRITAIN 2
BE 000-101-4—6-5-2
NB 010-001-0—2-5-3
WP: Ryan Maglio. LP: Will Estronza. Rec.: BE—2-2; NB—0-5.
PLATT 4, FARMINGTON 1
WETHERSFIELD 15, NORTHWEST CATHOLIC 5

BASEBALL
NCCC
COVENTRY 8, SUFFIELD 3 (8)
C 201-000-05—8-7-3
S 101-100-00—3-7-8
WP: AJ Rooks. LP: Chase Tyburski. Rec.: C—5-2; S—1-4. Note: Jacob Wojtkowiak and Matt LaFontaine both had 3hits, 2RBI, 2runs scored for Coventry. Matt Sinofsky was 2-for-4with a double, RBI and Noah Schermehorn had a double, 2runs scored for Suffield.
ROCKVILLE 5, SOMERS 4 (8)
S 200-002-00—4-8-2
R 020-002-01—5-8-2
WP: Joe Stawski. LP: Tony Maia. Rec.: R—3-4; S—6-1. Note: Steven Kozak had a walk-off RBI double in the bottom of the 8th.
STAFFORD 17, WINDSOR LOCKS 2 (5)
WL 002-00—2-4-5
S 230-(12)x—17-20-1
WP: Attley Stevens. LP: Logan Tuttle. Rec.: S—4-2; WL—1-5.
ELLINGTON 8, CANTON 1
SHORELINE
HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH 14, WESTBROOK 0 (5)
HK 800-24—14-12-0
W 000-00—0-1-3
WP: Callen Powers. LP: Michael Sharpe. Rec.: HK—5-3; W—0-8. Note: Powers tossed a 1-hit shutout. Todd Butler, Ryan Erskine and Lucas Kamoen each had 2hits for H-K. Daniel Zumbrano had the lone hit for Westbrook.
COGINCHAUG 9, MORGAN 3

BASEBALL
CRAL
WEAVER 13, CAPITAL PREP 1
UNIVERSITY/CLASSICAL 7, INNOVATION 6
SCC
LYMAN HALL 4, CHESHIRE 3
HAND 13, WILBUR CROSS 3

SOFTBALL
CCC-East
SOUTH WINDSOR 11, EAST CATHOLIC 5
SW 231-300-2—11
EC 111-101-0—5
WP: Gabby Ryan. LP: Kylie Bachand-Martin. Rec.: SW—2-3; EC—3-1.
CCC-West
HALL 8, AVON 2

BASEBALL
CCC-Inter
ENFIELD 16, PLATT 5
E 103-402-6—16-17-1
P 101-000-3—5-8-1
WP: Tiffany Lubanski. LP: Emily Hart. HR: E—Brenna Lyver. Rec.: E—5-2; P—4-4. Note: Lyver was 5-for-5with 4RBI and Olivia Stebbins was 3-for-5with 4RBI for Enfield. Brooklyn Cividanes was 3-for-3with a double for Platt.
TOLLAND 15, LEWIS MILLS 1 (5)
LM 010-00—1-12-4
T 555-0x—15-5-0
WP: Elsie McCaffrey. LP: Olivia Sawyer. Rec.: T—5-2; LM—1-6. Note: Caylin Blazys had a triple, 3RBI, 3runs scored and Lauren Czerwinski had a triple, 2runs scored.
CONARD 23, EAST HARTFORD 2 (5)
EH 100-10—2
C 2(12)7-2x—23
WP: Tatyana Datil. LP: Lenaiya Garcia. Rec.: C—3-3; EH—1-6.
GLASTONBURY 13, WINDSOR 8
MANCHESTER 7, SIMSBURY 6 (8)
NCCC
SOMERS 6, ROCKVILLE 2
R 100-001-0—2-2-0
S 000-330-x—6-8-1
WP: Madison Hinkley. LP: Alexis Real. Rec.: S—4-3; R—3-3. Note: Laura Cattellier had a double, 2RBI and Bianca Green was 2-for-3with a double, RBI for Somers. Lila Ward was 1-for-3 with 2runs scored for Rockville.
ELLINGTON 8, CANTON 0
E 202-020-2—8-9-1
C 000-000-0—0-2-2
WP: Camryn Fisher. LP: Alice Butterfield. Rec.: E—5-1; C—3-3. Note: Fisher tossed a 2-hitter with 17strikeouts. Sydney Matz had 3hits, 2RBI, 4runs scored and Brynlee Eckles had 3hits, 3runs scored.
STAFFORD 18, WINDSOR LOCKS 0 (6)
S 214-152—15
WL 000-000—0
WP: Ashley Toney. LP: Bella Canon. HR: S—Sofia Frassinelli. Rec.: S—3-1; WL—1-4. Note: Toney tossed a 2-hitter with 16strikeouts. Frassinelli was 4-for-5with 2homers, 2triples.
BOLTON 18, HMTCA 3 (5)
COVENTRY 9, SUFFIELD 4
GRANBY 20, EAST GRANBY 16
SHORELINE
NORTH BRANFORD 11, HALE-RAY 1
HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH 18, WESTBROOK/PORTLAND 0 (5)

BASEBALL
CCC-North
CONARD 15, AVON 9

BOYS VOLLEYBALL
CCC-Inter
ENFIELD 3, NEW BRITAIN 0 (25-22, 25-19, 25-18)
E: Drew Rancourt, 13kills, 3aces, 4digs, John Bellafronte, 7kills, 3aces, 3blocks; NB: Anthony Olmeda, 12kills, 9assists, Davin Siharadh, 13assists, Skills. Rec.: E—6-1; NB—4-1.
SIMSBURY 3, WETHERSFIELD 0 (25-17, 25-10, 25-16)
S: Cyrus Nash, 8kills, 8digs; W: Andrew Knapp, 7kills, 6digs. Rec.: S—3-3; W—1-5.
MALONEY 3, BULKELEY/SMSA 1
M: Onil Carrión, 20assists, 4aces, 2kills, Adnel Torres, 12kills, 10aces, Dev Patel, 9aces, 8kills. Rec.: M—2-3; BS—1-5
GLASTONBURY 3, NEWINGTON 1
SOUTH WINDSOR 3, CONARD 2

BASEBALL
SCC
CHESHIRE 3, XAVIER 1 (13-25, 25-22, 25-20, 25-9)
C: Tim Nugent, 27assists, 4aces, 3kills, Will Allen, 13kills, 4aces; X: Vinny Rappoccio, 8kills, 5digs, Peter O'Brien, 13digs, 8kills. Rec.: C—5-2; X—6-2.

BASEBALL
Others
ROCKVILLE 3, LEWIS MILLS 2

BOYS GOLF
NCCC
CANTON 176, SOMERS 212
Medalist: Matt Schuman, Canton, 40at Blue Fox Run, Avon.
EAST GRANBY 196, WINDSOR LOCKS 258

BASEBALL
CCC
WILCOX TECH 232, GOODWIN TECH 239
CCC-West
SHELTON 168, XAVIER 183
Medalist: Vinny DeFeo, Shelton, 168at Highland GC, Shelton.

BASEBALL
Others
PORTLAND 161, EAST CATHOLIC 177
Medalists: Luke Stennett and Quinn Lapinski, Portland, 37at Portland GC.

GIRLS GOLF
CCC-East
GLASTONBURY 188, EAST HARTFORD 303
CCC-West
NORTHWEST CATHOLIC 228, FARMINGTON 285
CCC-Inter

BASEBALL
WP: Jenna Tinker. LP: MaKayla Smith. HR: M—Smith; CL—Alana Parrish. Rec.: CL—5-0; M—1-1.
WEAVER 21, CAPITAL PREP 15
SCC
LYMAN HALL 17, HAMDEN 12
H 117-201-0—12-18-3
LH 232-253-x—17-14-4
WP: Keera Reed. LP: Olivia McManus. Rec.: LH—1-5; H—3-5. Note: Alana Peruti was 3-for-5 with 4RBI and Callie Chordas was 2-for-5with 4RBI.
CHESHIRE 12, SHEEHAN 0
ECC
STONINGTON 8, WINDHAM 1
W 000-100-0—1-7-2
S 102-203-x—8-10-2
WP: Carla Beverly. LP: Analise Escarraman. HR: S—Maddy Stepski. Rec.: S—3-2; W—5-3.
Note: Escarraman had 9strikeouts and Alyssa Figueroa was 3-for-3for Windham. Stepski hit for the cycle for Stonington.

BASEBALL
Others
INNOVATION 20, PRINCE TECH 13 (4)
PT 126-4—13-8-0
I (14)06-x—20-4-1
WP: Alice Bidoae. LP: Carolina Alvarado. Rec.: I—2-2; PT—0-6. Note: Macyng Rosay had a double, 2RBI and Nataly Rodriguez was 1-for-3 with 2RBI for Innovation. Liaza Diaz had a triple, 2RBI for Prince.
MERCY 20, FARMINGTON 3 (5)
F 210-00—3-3-3
M 6(12)0-2x—20-7-1
WP: Jaina Geisler. LP: Amber Wolkner. HR: F—Angelina Talbot. Rec.: M—3-5; F—0-5.
EAST WINDSOR/SMSA 21, BULKELEY 1
EW 765-30—21
B 000-10—1
WP: Hannah Lanagan. LP: Danielys Ortiz. Rec.: EW—2-2; B—0-4.

GIRLS LACROSSE
CCC-North
CONARD 15, AVON 9

BOYS VOLLEYBALL
CCC-Inter
ENFIELD 3, NEW BRITAIN 0 (25-22, 25-19, 25-18)
E: Drew Rancourt, 13kills, 3aces, 4digs, John Bellafronte, 7kills, 3aces, 3blocks; NB: Anthony Olmeda, 12kills, 9assists, Davin Siharadh, 13assists, Skills. Rec.: E—6-1; NB—4-1.
SIMSBURY 3, WETHERSFIELD 0 (25-17, 25-10, 25-16)
S: Cyrus Nash, 8kills, 8digs; W: Andrew Knapp, 7kills, 6digs. Rec.: S—3-3; W—1-5.
MALONEY 3, BULKELEY/SMSA 1
M: Onil Carrión, 20assists, 4aces, 2kills, Adnel Torres, 12kills, 10aces, Dev Patel, 9aces, 8kills. Rec.: M—2-3; BS—1-5
GLASTONBURY 3, NEWINGTON 1
SOUTH WINDSOR 3, CONARD 2

BASEBALL
SCC
CHESHIRE 3, XAVIER 1 (13-25, 25-22, 25-20, 25-9)
C: Tim Nugent, 27assists, 4aces, 3kills, Will Allen, 13kills, 4aces; X: Vinny Rappoccio, 8kills, 5digs, Peter O'Brien, 13digs, 8kills. Rec.: C—5-2; X—6-2.

BASEBALL
Others
ROCKVILLE 3, LEWIS MILLS 2

BOYS GOLF
NCCC
CANTON 176, SOMERS 212
Medalist: Matt Schuman, Canton, 40at Blue Fox Run, Avon.
EAST GRANBY 196, WINDSOR LOCKS 258

BASEBALL
CCC
WILCOX TECH 232, GOODWIN TECH 239
CCC-West
SHELTON 168, XAVIER 183
Medalist: Vinny DeFeo, Shelton, 168at Highland GC, Shelton.

BASEBALL
Others
PORTLAND 161, EAST CATHOLIC 177
Medalists: Luke Stennett and Quinn Lapinski, Portland, 37at Portland GC.

GIRLS GOLF
CCC-East
GLASTONBURY 188, EAST HARTFORD 303
CCC-West
NORTHWEST CATHOLIC 228, FARMINGTON 285
CCC-Inter

BASEBALL
HALL 199, WETHERSFIELD 209
Medalist: Annie DeSanto, Hall, 42at Rockledge GC, West Hartford.
CONARD 232, MANCHESTER 235
Medalist: Lily Nguyen, Conard, 48at Manchester CC.

BOYS TRACK & FIELD
NCCC
ROCKVILLE 141, HMTCA 8

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD
CCC-South
LEWIS MILLS 100, PLAINVILLE 49

BASEBALL
NCCC
ROCKVILLE 142, HMTCA 6

BOYS TENNIS
CCC-Inter
CONARD 7, LEWIS MILLS 0
HALL 7, NEWINGTON 0
EAST CATHOLIC 4, SIMSBURY 3
BERLIN 7, NORTHWEST CATHOLIC 0

BASEBALL
NCCC
WINDSOR LOCKS 5, CANTON/EAST GRANBY 1

BASEBALL
Shoreline
OLD SAYBROOK 3, COGINCHAUG 0
EAST HAMPTON 5, PORTLAND 1
CROMWELL 5, HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH 1

GIRLS TENNIS
CCC-East
EAST HARTFORD 5, EAST CATHOLIC 2
CCC-Inter
HALL 6, RHAM 1
NEWINGTON 7, NORTHWEST CATHOLIC 0
CONARD 6, E.O. SMITH 1
GLASTONBURY 7, SOUTH WINDSOR 0

BASEBALL
NCCC
ELLINGTON 7, ROCKVILLE 0
EAST GRANBY 6, CANTON 1
GRANBY 5, COVENTRY 2
Shoreline
VALLEY REGIONAL 7, NORTH BRANFORD 0
CROMWELL 7, HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH 0
WESTBROOK 7, MORGAN 0

BASEBALL
SCC
WEST HAVEN 5, LYMAN HALL 2

BASEBALL
Lewis Mills at Canton: Fitch at E.O. Smith, 4p.m.; Tolland at East Granby, 4p.m.; Waterford at Cromwell, 4p.m.; East Lyme at Coventry, 4p.m.; Civic Leadership at Stafford, 4p.m.; Rockville at Hartford Public/HMTCA, 4p.m.

SOFTBALL
CCC-South: Berlin at Lewis Mills
CCC-East: East Catholic at South Windsor
CCC-Inter: Farmington at Maloney; Hall at Windsor
NCCC: Stafford at Coventry; HMTCA at Rockville; Granby at East Windsor/SMSA, 4p.m.
CRAL: Civic Leadership/Aerospace at University/Classical
SCC: Shelton at Lyman Hall
ECC: Griswold at Bacon Academy, 11a.m.; Windham at Lyman Memorial, 4p.m.
Others: Haddam-Killingworth at Middletown; Bloomfield at Weaver, 4p.m.; New Britain at Cromwell, 4p.m.; Pomperaug at Bristol Central, 4:15p.m.

BOYS LACROSSE
CCC-North: South Windsor at Rocky Hill, 4p.m.; Berlin at Farmington, 4p.m.; RHAM at Northwest Catholic, 4p.m.
CCC-Central: Simsbury at East Catholic, 4p.m.
CCC-South: Middletown at E.O. Smith; Wethersfield at Maloney/Platt, 4p.m.; Tolland at Windsor, 4p.m.; Enfield at Bristol co-op, 5p.m.
Shoreline: Cromwell at Old Lyme; Morgan at Old Saybrook; North Branford at Valley Regional, 4p.m.
SCC: Cheshire at Amity, 5:30p.m.; Xavier at Hand, 6p.m.; Lyman Hall at Branford/East Haven, 6:30p.m.
Others: Ellington at Montville, 4p.m.; Bacon Academy at Granby, 4p.m.; Lewis Mills at Suffield/Windsor Locks, 4p.m.; Rockville co-op at Woodstock Academy, 4:15p.m.; St. Paul at Haddam-Killingworth, 4:

Hartford Courant

FLAVOR

LIVING



Toss chewy noodles in a sesame-peanut sauce for a refreshing dish. **KELLI FOSTER/THEKITCHN.COM**

SESAME NOODLES

Makes: 2 to 3 servings
2 cloves garlic
1 (1-inch) piece ginger
2 medium scallions
¼ cup smooth peanut butter
1 tablespoon Chinese sesame paste (see note)
2 tablespoons soy sauce
2 tablespoons rice vinegar
2 tablespoons hot water
1 tablespoon granulated sugar
1 tablespoon toasted sesame oil
1 teaspoon Asian chili-garlic paste, such as sambal oelek
½ medium English cucumber (about 4 ounces, optional)
8 ounces thin, dried Chinese wheat noodles, preferably Taiwanese kuan miao

Garnish options:
2 tablespoons roasted salted or unsalted peanuts
1 teaspoon toasted or untoasted sesame seeds

1. Bring a large saucepan of water to a boil over medium-high heat. Meanwhile, make the sauce.

2. Mince 2 garlic cloves. Peel and mince 1 (1-inch) piece ginger until you have 1 teaspoon. Place both in a large bowl. Thinly slice 2 medium scallions; add scallion white and light green parts to bowl and reserve the dark green parts for garnish.

3. Add ¼ cup peanut butter, 1 tablespoon Chinese sesame paste, 2 tablespoons soy sauce, 2 tablespoons rice vinegar, 2 tablespoons hot water, 1 tablespoon granulated sugar, 1 tablespoon toasted sesame oil and 1 teaspoon Asian chili-garlic paste to the bowl, and whisk until creamy and combined (it will look curdled at first). Cut ½ medium English cucumber into matchsticks (about 1 cup) and add to the bowl of sauce, if desired.

4. Add 8 ounces thin, dried Chinese wheat noodles to the boiling water and cook according to package directions until tender. Meanwhile, coarsely chop 2 tablespoons roasted peanuts, if desired.

5. When the noodles are ready, drain and rinse under cold water until cooled. Drain again, shaking off the excess water. Add to the sauce and toss until evenly coated. Garnish with the reserved scallion greens, peanuts and 1 teaspoon sesame seeds, if desired.

Note: Thin, dried wheat-based Taiwanese noodles (no egg) labeled kuan miao are best for this recipe, but you can substitute dried udon or spaghetti noodles in its place. Tahini can be substituted for the sesame paste, but it has a slightly more bitter taste. More peanut butter can also be used in place of the sesame paste.

SUPER BOWL

These creamy, cold sesame noodles are great anytime

By Christine Gallary
TheKitchn.com

Cold sesame noodles are a refreshing delight — especially on a hot day or if you want a filling but flavorful on-the-go lunch. There are many versions of sesame noodles, notably ones from Sichuan and Taiwan, but they all contain Chinese sesame paste and other seasonings tossed with chewy noodles. There's actually very little cooking to do — just boiling the noodles — so prep is relegated to some chopping and mixing of the sauce. Good Chinese or

Taiwanese sesame noodles have a balance of sweet, savory, nutty and a little bit of heat, so here's an easy recipe that balances all those flavors into one tasty, slurp-able bowl. Here's what you'll need to make sesame noodles.

Noodles: Thin, dried wheat noodles work best here because they cook up chewy and don't get too gloppy or gummy when tossed with the sauce. My favorite are Taiwanese noodles called kuan miao. Skip the noodles that contain egg. In a pinch, you can use dried udon noodles

instead.

Peanut butter: While sesame noodles used to contain just or mostly sesame paste, modern versions start with peanut butter. The smooth peanut butter coats the noodles well and adds a great depth of flavor.

Chinese sesame paste: Sesame paste is a key ingredient here to round out the sauce, even though you don't need a lot. Chinese sesame paste is made from darkly roasted sesame seeds and tastes different than tahini, which is made from unroasted or lightly roasted sesame seeds and has a more bitter flavor.

Sesame oil: A good spoon-

ful of toasted sesame oil helps thin out the nut butter and adds a delicious toastiness.

Aromatics: Minced ginger, garlic and scallions add lots of fresh flavor. Chop the ginger and garlic as finely as you can.

Sugar: The sweet notes in this recipe come from a spoonful of granulated sugar.

Soy sauce and rice vinegar: Soy sauce and rice vinegar help thin out the sauce, and add savory and acidic notes to balance everything out.

Garnishes: Sesame seeds, scallion greens and roasted peanuts add some crunch and color to the finished

noodles. You can also toss in matchstick-cut cucumber for some refreshing bites.

Do you eat sesame noodles hot or cold?

To make sesame noodles, boil the noodles and then run them under cold water to stop the cooking and to keep them from getting gummy. Toss with the no-cook sauce and they're ready to eat. These sesame noodles are eaten at room temperature or cold, making them a great make-ahead or on-the-go dish.

What to serve with sesame noodles

Sesame noodles are substantial enough that they can be eaten alone, or you can serve them with some protein like poached chicken or even seared fish. They also go well with a Taiwanese cucumber salad or as part of a hot pot meal.

Spice up your pork chops

By Breana Killeen
EatingWell

A Cajun-seasoned pork chop rub adds a delicious smoky flavor to this easy skillet dish. The polenta has a nice sharp bite thanks to cheddar cheese. Don't have any on hand? Try Parmesan or Gouda instead.



JENNIFER CAUSEY/EATINGWELL

CAJUN SKILLET PORK CHOPS WITH ASPARAGUS AND CHEESY POLENTA

Makes: 4 servings
Total time: 35 minutes
4 cups water
1 cup cornmeal
1½ pounds thin-cut bone-in pork chops
1 tablespoon Cajun seasoning
½ teaspoon salt plus a pinch, divided
2 tablespoons grapeseed or canola oil, divided
1 pound asparagus, cut into 2-inch pieces
¼ cup white wine
1½ cups shredded sharp

cheddar cheese
4 scallions, sliced
1 tablespoon butter
1½ teaspoon ground pepper

1. Bring water to a boil in medium saucepan over high heat. Slowly whisk in cornmeal and reduce heat to maintain a simmer. Cook, stirring occasionally, until thickened and the cornmeal is tender, about 20 minutes.

2. Meanwhile, season pork chops with Cajun seasoning and ¼ teaspoon salt. Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the pork and cook, turning once, until browned, about 1 minute per side. Reduce heat to medium and

continue cooking until an instant-read thermometer inserted in the thickest part registers 140 degrees, 3 to 6 minutes more. Transfer the pork to a plate and tent with foil to keep warm.

3. Add the remaining 1 tablespoon oil, asparagus, wine and pinch of salt to the pan. Cook, scraping up any browned bits, until the asparagus is tender, about 3 minutes.

4. Remove the polenta from the heat and stir in cheese, scallions, butter, pepper and the remaining ¼ teaspoon salt. Serve the pork chops with the asparagus and polenta.

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A strawberry pie for early spring

By Ben Mims
Los Angeles Times

Although strawberries scream “summer” to most people, to me they carry a lot of BSE: Big Spring Energy. That’s because growing up in the South, the first strawberries of the year hit markets in early March.

And while those early season berries weren’t as sweet as those that came at the start of summer, I always loved them more. Their slightly sulphuric, sour flavor made them ideal for baking, since it helped to cook them down with sugar so as to make them as candy-like as their late-season siblings.

I mostly refuse to eat strawberries throughout the rest of the year, waiting for those first berries of spring to kick off the season that lasts until the last super-sweet berries leave in the summer. And right now, all I want to do is bake things with these new berries.

My current baking project is a cold pie that incorporates the cooked-down strawberries into a “Black Forest” flavor profile.

Instead of using cherries, which I often find need a lot of help to coax that enticing “red” flavor from within, early season strawberries have the robust, tangy flavor I want — when cooked and condensed, the acidity balances all the sugar and allows for an exponentially greater berry-full flavor.

To complete the inspiration, I spread a layer of chocolate pudding over the jammy berries, followed by a layer of whipped cream to cut all the richness.

In that last layer, I use cornstarch and gelatin to help set the whipped

cream and prevent weeping — when water separates from the dairy fat — which can happen as it sits. It’s a technique — to help set the whipped cream on the outside and keep it stable, sliceable and soft — I learned from making a traditional Black Forest cake.

First you make a pudding by cooking a small amount of milk with cornstarch and sugar, then you dissolve gelatin into the pudding and, finally, fold it into the whipped cream to stabilize it.

It may seem unnecessary, but when you work so hard on a pie like this, you want to ensure it sets up and comes out looking beautiful with each slice — now is not the time for those fashionably floppy pie fillings.

The crust is an homage to chocolate-flavored Teddy Grahams cookies, which have the perfect light-chocolate flavor I’m after, and are balanced with the earthiness of graham crackers. But because they’re often difficult to find, I came up with my own amalgamation of the cookies using plain graham crackers and cocoa powder to mimic the flavor.

With all the intense fillings above it, this crust is refreshingly tame in comparison and a cinch to make since rolling out pastry would be overkill here.

To garnish, I use some simple shaved bits of chocolate and, if I want to really impress (I always do), a sprinkling of ground freeze-dried strawberries. It’s a luscious, sensual pie using a berry that, for now, is happy to play with other strong flavors until it’s ready to show its sweet side.



STRAWBERRY FOREST PIE

Total time: 2 hours
Makes: 8 servings
For the crust:
1 ¼ cups graham cracker crumbs
½ cup granulated sugar
3 tablespoons Dutch process cocoa powder
⅛ teaspoon fine sea salt
6 tablespoons melted unsalted butter
For the strawberry layer:
12 ounces strawberries, hulled and quartered
3 tablespoons granulated sugar
¼ teaspoon fine sea salt
2 teaspoons cornstarch
1 tablespoon water
½ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
For the chocolate pudding layer:
3 tablespoons granulated sugar
1 tablespoon cornstarch
2 large egg yolks
¾ cup whole milk
3 ounces bittersweet chocolate (preferably 70%), finely chopped
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
½ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
¼ teaspoon fine sea salt
For the cream layer:
1 ½ teaspoons unflavored powdered gelatin

½ cup plus 2 tablespoons whole milk, divided
2 tablespoons granulated sugar
2 tablespoons cornstarch
1 cup chilled heavy cream
¼ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
Finely ground freeze-dried strawberries and/or grated dark chocolate, to garnish
1. Make the crust: Heat the oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, add the cracker crumbs, sugar, cocoa powder, salt and butter, and mix with your fingers until evenly combined. Transfer the mixture to a 9-inch metal pie pan and press evenly into the bottom and sides of the pan. Bake until darkened with the edges a shade lighter, about 10 minutes. Transfer the crust to a wire rack and let cool while you make the strawberry layer.
2. Make the strawberry layer: Combine strawberries, sugar and salt in a small saucepan. Place over medium heat and cook, stirring every minute or so, until strawberries have mostly collapsed, there are no rigidly solid pieces left and there is plenty of

syrup around them, about 10 minutes. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, stir together cornstarch and water. Pour cornstarch slurry into the berries, and continue cooking until liquid thickens (some of the berries will break down into the syrup), about 1 minute. Remove pan from the heat and stir in vanilla. Scrape the strawberries into the pie crust and spread into an even layer. Let cool while you make the chocolate pudding layer.
3. Make the chocolate pudding layer: In a small saucepan, whisk together the sugar and cornstarch, then mix in the egg yolks. Add the milk and stir until smooth. Place the pan over medium heat and cook, stirring constantly, until the pudding begins bubbling, about 4 minutes, then keep cooking, stirring constantly, until the pudding is thick, about 1 minute more. Remove the pan from the heat, and stir in the chocolate and butter until both are melted and smooth. Stir in the vanilla and salt, then scrape the chocolate pudding over the strawberry layer. Spread into an even layer and let cool completely.

4. Make the cream layer: Sprinkle gelatin over 2 tablespoons milk in a bowl; let sit until gelatin softens, about 5 minutes. Whisk together sugar and cornstarch in a small saucepan, then add remaining ½ cup milk and place over medium heat. Cook, stirring constantly, until mixture thickens to the consistency of very thick pudding, 4 to 5 minutes, then remove pan from the heat, and stir in gelatin mixture until it dissolves fully. Scrape gelatin mixture into a large bowl and let cool, stirring occasionally, to room temperature.
5. In a medium bowl, whisk cream and vanilla until stiff peaks form. Add one-third of the whipped cream to the gelatin mixture, and stir until smooth. Add the remaining whipped cream and gently fold with a rubber spatula until evenly combined. Scrape the whipped cream over the chocolate layer and smooth the top. Cover loosely with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 4 hours or overnight.
6. When ready to serve, sprinkle the top with chocolate shavings and/or ground freeze-dried strawberries. Serve immediately while chilled.



Use pre-shredded coleslaw to save time. **ANTONIS ACHILLEOS/EATINGWELL**

Make quick taco dinner on your busiest nights

By Sarah Epperson | EatingWell

This zippy, creamy slaw is so good, you might find yourself making it for other sandwiches. Still, it pairs beautifully with the tangy pulled chicken for an incredibly quick dinner you can make even on your busiest nights. To save even more time, use a pre-shredded coleslaw blend.

BBQ CHICKEN TACOS WITH RED CABBAGE SLAW

Makes: 4 servings
Total time: 10 minutes
½ cup nonfat plain Greek yogurt
1 tablespoon sugar
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 tablespoon cider vinegar
¾ teaspoon kosher salt
¼ teaspoon ground pepper
1 dash hot sauce
2 cups shredded red cabbage (½ head)
2 cups shredded cooked chicken breast (about 6 ounces)
½ cup light barbecue sauce
8 corn tortillas
1 bunch chopped cilantro for garnish
1. Combine yogurt, sugar, lemon juice,

vinegar, salt, pepper and hot sauce in a large bowl. Add cabbage; toss until fully coated.
2. Combine chicken and barbecue sauce in a medium microwavable bowl; toss until chicken is coated. Microwave on high until heated through, about 1 minute.
3. Heat tortillas according to package directions. Fill each tortilla with ¼ cup of the chicken and top with 3 tablespoons of the slaw. Garnish with cilantro and serve.
To make ahead: Prepare slaw (Step 1); cover and refrigerate for up to one day.
Nutritional information per serving:
275 calories, total fat: 4 g, saturated fat: 1 g, cholesterol: 60 mg, carbohydrates: 31 g, fiber: 3 g, total sugars: 7 g, protein: 26 g, sodium: 662 mg, potassium: 299 mg, iron: 1 mg, folate: 11 mcg, calcium: 58 mg, vitamin A: 557 IU, vitamin C: 22 mg

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Another variable in winemaking: climate change

One maker aims for ‘climate-driven creative wines’

By Eric Asimov
The New York Times

BERKELEY, Calif. — If anyone doubts the jarring effect that climate change has already had on the California wine industry, ample evidence was on display in late March at Donkey & Goat’s outdoor tasting area in this neighborhood of motorcycle repair shops and urban wineries.

At picnic tables, visitors sampled Donkey & Goat’s newly released natural wines, a group that even the producer’s most ardent fans would not recognize.

Instead of the usual bottles highlighting the hyperspecific terroir characteristics of single vineyards in Northern California, stretching from Mendocino and Sonoma east to El Dorado and the Sierra Foothills, the 2021 Donkey & Goat wines available to taste were either labeled with the generic “California” appellation or came from vineyards that had not been part of its usual lineup.

Wine fans who cherish bottles with a sense of place look for specificity in appellations, hoping the wines will reflect the qualities of an area or vineyard. That has always been Donkey & Goat’s strong suit. In the past, any of its wine labeled “California” was made from inexpensive grapes and carried a modest price tag.

But this year, some of its most expensive grapes are going into those “California” wines. Crops from multiple appellations were combined in an effort to make up for shortfalls after the 2021 fires in Northern California.

The catastrophic fires of the past few growing seasons on the West Coast have turned what was once the relatively routine, annual ritual of harvest and



New cuvees, under the generic California appellation, from the winery Donkey & Goat. CAROLYN FONG/THE NEW YORK TIMES

winemaking into a period of fear and anxiety. Growers and winemakers now must consider whether fires will come again and what to do about it. Fire damage, along with smoke and ash, is devastating to any vineyard and producer. Those wineries owned by billionaires or big corporations have the resources to withstand diminished harvests, or even a year or two with no wine at all. But small businesses like Donkey & Goat now face existential threats each year and wonder if they will be able to make enough wine to cover costs.

As a matter of survival, West Coast wineries have had to innovate, turning grapes that might have been destined for one sort of wine into a completely different one.

Tracey Rogers Brandt, the general manager and winemaker for Donkey & Goat, is hoping that the unusual wines she was compelled to make in 2021 will not be demeaned because they are different or unexpected. She hopes

that what she calls her “climate-driven creative wines” will be recognized as inventive responses to disastrous events and valued accordingly.

Every year Isabel’s Cuvée, a single-vineyard rosé made from grenache gris grown on the Gibson Ranch in the McDowell Valley of Mendocino County, is a core wine for Donkey & Goat.

Rogers Brandt had plenty of grapes in 2021 to produce the usual amount of Isabel’s. But the Caldor Fire ravaged vineyards in El Dorado, where Donkey & Goat obtains nearly 55% of the grapes for its annual production of red wines.

Donkey & Goat was able to salvage roughly 40% of its red grapes, mostly syrah, grenache and mourvèdre. But when smoke and ash settle on red grapes, the grape skins, which provide color and structure to the wine, must be discarded. Red wine cannot be produced without subjecting the wine to the sorts of technological manip-

ulations Donkey & Goat abhors.

In such cases, many wineries would use the grapes to make a simple rosé. Rogers Brandt could have made an innocuous rosé to sell alongside Isabel’s Cuvée. But she said that would not have been satisfying aesthetically, and she would have lost money on the wine.

She decided instead to combine the rosé made from these grapes with the rosé destined for Isabel’s Cuvée. Feeling the wine was still missing something, she added some pinot gris from the 2020 vintage, made in the ramato style, in which the juice and skins are macerated together, adding texture and color. Federal rules permit up to 15% of a blend from a vintage other than the stated year.

The result, labeled Gris Gris, is delightful — lively, tangy, refreshing and bone dry, with flavors of fruits and herbs. It includes grapes from McDowell Valley, Anderson Valley and

El Dorado, hence the California appellation. Rogers Brandt is selling the wine for \$32 a bottle, roughly equivalent to Isabel’s Cuvée despite the appellation.

“I can’t survive if I have climate impact and have to designate wines ‘California’ and sell them for a song,” she said. “People say, ‘It’s not a vineyard-designate, it should be cheaper.’ No, I should charge more because my expenses are so much higher.”

Donkey & Goat, like many small wineries without vineyards of their own, must develop partnerships with growers to assure a steady supply of fruit. This is doubly important for producers like Rogers Brandt, who works primarily with organic and biodynamic vineyards.

Faced with fires in both 2020 and 2021, many winemakers bailed on growers or bought only a portion of their allotment. It’s a difficult situation for all concerned, but Rogers Brandt said it was crucial to support growers.

“You can’t just buy grapes in the good years,” she said. “That’s not going to work for growers. To preserve vineyards and farming, you have to keep it going.”

Rogers Brandt faced a slightly different situation with the 2020 fires. That year, she harvested grapes that she expected to be fine. Only during the winemaking process did she discover they had been affected by smoke. She made what she could, even if the results, she said, left her heartbroken.

She vowed not to be caught off guard again. In the early part of 2021, she made a point of tasting many natural wines, looking for inspiration for what she called Plan B Wines if again confronted with fires.

Her other improvised 2021s, all with the California appellation, include Cannonball, an unusual blend of carignan and grüner veltliner with dollops of chardonnay, grenache blanc and vermentino from Mendocino, Monterey and El Dorado, bright, fruity and savory, all knit together with a thread of tannin, for \$36; a light and pleasing pétillant naturel made of Monterey grüner veltliner and Anderson Valley chardonnay for \$40; and Skinny Dip, for \$36, which requires a bit of explanation.

After she made the Isabel’s Cuvée, which went into her Gris Gris, Rogers Brandt took the pomace — the residue of pulp, skins, stems and seeds left from the winemaking process — and put it into a clay vat. She then filled it with a rosé of grenache noir from El Dorado and let them sit together for 12 days. The result was a dark rosé that was delicious, bright and lively.

“It was so good I’m going to do it again,” she said. “During harvest I thought I was going to lose my business. I didn’t know if I could pay my people. And I love these wines.”

SERIOUSLY SIMPLE

White beans and artichoke hearts, an inspired combo

By Diane Rossen
Worthington
Tribune Content Agency

Springtime soups often show off the assortment of greens that have just arrived at the farmers market. Sweet peas, asparagus, ramps and Chinese peas are just a few of the greens I love to cook.

Sometimes I like to combine unlikely but complementary flavors together. The simple white bean often needs some oomph to bring out its flavor. Combining white beans and artichoke hearts turns out to be an inspired combination. The artichoke hearts add just a hint of the artichokes’ distinguishing taste. And even though they’re frozen, the artichokes provide the unique flavor in this soup.

If you like a smooth soup, straining the soup creates a silken texture. Sometimes I will use my Vitamix blender if I



This soup is easy to make into a full meal. DREAMSTIME

want to skip the straining step, since it creates a silky, frothy texture. Using frozen artichoke hearts cuts down an enormous amount of preparation time without sacrificing any flavor.

This is easy to make into a full meal. Serve warm chunks of your favorite rustic bread with plates of fruity olive oil. I like to drink a light-oaked Chardonnay or a Beajoulais with this soup.

stirring occasionally. Add the carrots and saute for 3 minutes or until slightly softened. Add the artichokes hearts and saute, about 2 to 3 minutes, until slightly softened. Increase the heat to high and add the stock, beans, garlic and tomatoes. When the soup comes to a boil, reduce the heat to low and simmer for about 1 to 1 1/4 hours, partially covered, or until the beans are tender.

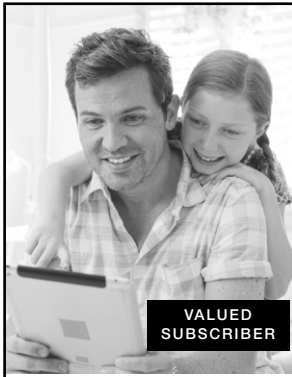
3. Puree the soup in the pot with a hand blender or in a food processor. At this point, you can strain the soup through a fine-meshed strainer into a large saucepan. If you like it chunkier, partially puree, leaving some texture. Add a bit more stock if too thick. Heat the soup on medium heat and add the salt, pepper and 2 tablespoons of the parsley and taste for seasoning.

4. To serve, ladle the soup into bowls and garnish with optional croutons, the remaining parsley, and the Parmesan cheese. Serve immediately.

Advance preparation: The soup can be prepared up to three days ahead through Step 3, covered and refrigerated. Reheat gently. You can also freeze the soup. Be sure to adjust the seasonings and add fresh herbs when you reheat the frozen soup.

WHITE BEAN AND ARTICHOKE SOUP

Makes: 6 servings
1 cup (½ pound) dried white beans
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 medium onions, coarsely chopped
2 carrots, peeled and coarsely chopped
¾-pound frozen artichoke hearts, defrosted
7 cups chicken stock
3 garlic cloves, minced
3 medium tomatoes, peeled, seeded and coarsely chopped, or 1 (14 ½ ounce) can diced canned tomatoes
Salt and white pepper or to taste
¼ cup finely chopped parsley
To garnish:
½ cup favorite croutons, optional
6 tablespoons freshly grated Parmesan cheese
1. Soak the beans overnight in enough quick water to generously cover or do a cold soak by bringing them to a boil in just enough water to cover, boiling for 2 minutes, then covering and letting stand 1 hour. Drain the beans.
2. In a 6-quart soup pot over medium heat, heat the oil, add the onions, and saute for about 5 minutes or until softened,



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Make a truly great concha

Popular Mexican sweet bread, with its seashell-shaped topping, is a delight when prepared right. Here’s how to make them at home.

By Pati Jinich
The New York Times

You’ve probably seen a concha: that springy, buttery brioche-style bun covered with a crisp-tender topping traditionally molded to look like a seashell. But have you had a great one? Anyone who has tasted a well-made concha will go weak at the sight of a fresh one in a panadería — or really anywhere food is sold throughout Mexico and Mexican American neighborhoods. A pillar of Mexico’s culinary identity, the concha is an integral part of everyday meals and family celebrations, appearing in movies, paintings and books, and inspiring concha-shaped household items. They can be eaten for breakfast with hot chocolate, coffee or milk; snacked on as an anytime pick-me-up; or split in half to make sandwiches. Yet there is a good chance that a concha bought at a bakery or store will have a stale bread base with a tasteless topping. Demand for the beloved quick bite is so high that bakeries sell out anyway. “It is mostly about staying in business,” said Irving Quiroz, a pastry chef based in Monterrey, Mexico. There is so much competition that bakers strive to offer affordable prices and make sacrifices in the process. Butter is reduced or left out in favor of vegetable shortening; water is used instead of milk; and, sometimes, the eggs are skipped entirely.

“It’s an understandable business practice, but the downside is that it makes it feel like you’re eating a sponge,” said Francisco Migoya, a Mexican chef and author of “Modernist Bread.” “You’ll almost always see someone eating it by dunking it in hot chocolate or coffee because it is so dry.”

There are a few key characteristics of a transcendent concha: a tender yet sturdy bread base; a flavorful, crumbly topping; and a balanced bread-to-topping ratio.

The good news is you don’t have to test out a dozen panaderías to find a great one. Here’s how to make a perfect concha at home.

Consider fat content

Be it butter or shortening, the less fat, the drier the bun. But too much fat coats the gluten chains and can weaken them, impeding rise. Traditionally, conchas were made with fresh lard, Quiroz said, and you can still find some prepared that way, rich and layered in flavor, in small towns in the Mexican countryside.

However, conchas made with lard tend to stay flat and are quite dense. Butter, a less heavy fat than lard, doesn’t weigh down the rise, giving conchas a pillowy puff and delicate taste. (Buns made with vegetable shortening will also puff up but lack flavor.)

Most panadería conchas are 12-20% fat to flour (hence the dryness), but this recipe increases the butter content to almost 36% for a tender bun that still rises and hold its shape.



A pillar of Mexico’s culinary identity, the concha is an integral part of everyday meals and family celebrations. JOEL GOLDBERG/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Knead, knead, then knead some more

Concha dough requires more kneading than might seem rational. It will appear too wet at first, but will eventually thicken.

Migoya recommends a stretch-and-fold method before letting the dough rise, as it gently develops gluten and achieves the desired smooth surface.

Look for the right consistency rather than counting minutes: You want a dough that is shiny and extremely soft; it should feel a bit like toy putty. It should sound loud as it slaps around the stand mixer bowl. With a bit of patience to work the dough, it will be not only a vehicle for the topping, but also it will shine in its own right.

Focus on the topping

The best part of a concha is, arguably, the topping.

In addition to lending flavor, the topping must maintain its signature seashell shape (concha means “seashell” in Spanish) throughout the baking process. Here, vegetable shortening, not butter, does the trick. (A butter-based topping would disappear into the concha as it bakes.)

The design isn’t just nostalgic, it’s also useful: Those ridges encourage the topping to break off gradually as you take bites, rather than crumbling all at once.

While a generous amount of topping is welcome, a tender bun could collapse under its weight. An average concha tends to be 15-20% topping, but this recipe ends up with almost 40% topping.



Pastry chef Irving Quiroz in Monterrey, Mexico, on March 16. A transcendent concha features a tender base, a flavorful topping and a balanced ratio of the two. PERLA TAMEZ/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS



Quiroz makes conchas using special concha molds, which can be purchased online. They make engraving the traditional seashell shape a breeze, but an ordinary dinner knife can also get the job done.

CONCHAS

Makes: 15 buns
Total time: 1 ½ hours, plus rising time

For the dough:

4 cups all-purpose flour (or bread flour, see note), plus more for dusting
7 tablespoons granulated sugar
2 teaspoons coarse kosher salt (Morton)
1 tablespoon instant yeast
¾ cup whole milk, at room temperature
4 large eggs, at room temperature
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
13 tablespoons unsalted butter, diced and brought to room temperature, plus more for greasing

For the vanilla topping (for 15 buns):

1 ½ cups powdered sugar
1 ½ cups all-purpose flour, plus more as needed
1 cup vegetable shortening
1 tablespoon vanilla extract

For the café con leche topping (for 15 buns):

1 ½ cups powdered sugar
1 ½ cups all-purpose flour, plus more as needed
1 cup vegetable shortening
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 tablespoons instant espresso
coffee combined with 2 teaspoons boiling water

For the cocoa topping

(for 15 buns):
1 ½ cups powdered sugar
1 ½ cups all-purpose flour, plus more as needed
1 cup vegetable shortening
¼ cup cocoa powder combined with 3 tablespoons boiling water

1. Make the dough:

Whisk the flour, sugar, salt and yeast in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the dough hook. Add the milk, eggs and vanilla. Mix on the lowest speed to combine without the flour splattering out of the bowl, about 20 seconds. (If needed, use a spatula to push the flour mixture toward the hook.) Raise speed to medium-high and mix until the dough slaps and pulls away from the sides of the bowl and starts to form a smooth, elastic ball around the hook, 10 to 15 minutes. Stay close to your mixer because it will start jumping all over your counter.

2. Reduce speed to low and add the butter gradually, in 3 to 4 additions. Once all butter is added, increase speed to medium-high. Continue mixing until the dough is again pulling away from the sides of the bowl, loudly slapping it and gathering into a very soft, elastic, silky and shiny mass that hugs the dough hook, 8 to 12 minutes. Again, stay close to your mixer because it will jump. The moment you stop beating the dough, it will relax into the bowl again.

3. Transfer the dough to a large buttered bowl. To activate the gluten further, stretch and fold the

dough: Using one or both of your hands, reach down between the greased side of the bowl and the dough, and lift the dough up out of the bowl and fold the dough over itself. Rotate the bowl 90 degrees and repeat the process three more times. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap, place it in the refrigerator for the first rise and let it chill anywhere from 4 hours to 24 hours.

4. Cover three 13-by-18-inch rimmed baking sheets with parchment paper. Cover a small area of countertop with a light layer of flour. Bring dough out of the refrigerator and, using your hands or a bench scraper, cut it into 15 pieces, each about 76 grams, which is about a ½-cup scoop. One by one, pat each piece of dough into a flat shape on the floured surface, then draw edges into the center, working your way around, pinching dough together into the center of what should now be a ball. Turn the ball over, cup it with your hand and move it in circles, rolling it over the counter for a few seconds to make a neater round. Repeat with remaining conchas and place 5 equally spaced balls on each of the 3 prepared baking sheets. Make sure there is a bit of flour on the counter before pressing each piece of dough, as dough is very sticky.

5. Make your preferred topping (see note): Combine all the ingredients for the selected topping flavor in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment and mix on the lowest speed until

the ingredients begin to combine, about 20 to 30 seconds. Raise the speed to medium and mix to form a glossy and smooth mixture, about 2 minutes.

6. Fill a small bowl halfway with warm water to wet your hands while you work to divide and shape the topping. Portion topping with a soup spoon to create 15 portions that are about 30 grams each. Wet your hands thoroughly and roll one portion of the topping into a ball. Set the ball in one palm and, using the other hand, pat it out into a 3 ½-inch round, as if you were patting a thick tortilla. (The topping is very sticky and soft, like a thick frosting, so moisten your hands as needed.) Place round disk over a concha and slide your fingers around the edges of the topping, pressing it lightly around the rim to gently adhere to the bun. The topping should not go all the way down to the parchment paper, but be at least about ¼ inch from it. Repeat to top the remaining conchas, keeping your hands wet throughout.

7. To make a shell pattern, dip a concha mold into flour to coat and very gently press the mold on the topping from one side to the other in a rolling motion, doing so swiftly and with determination as you move from side to side. (Dipping the mold in flour prevents it from sticking to the topping and prevents the topping from peeling away from the dough.) The mold should make a shell-shaped mark on the concha topping, merely

indenting it without breaking through to the dough. If you don’t have a concha mold, you can make the shape with a dinner knife by dipping it in flour and marking each concha with curves, lines or squares, but avoiding piercing through to the dough.

8. Cover the conchas with clean kitchen towels and set in a warm, draft-free area of your kitchen until they puff considerably, anywhere from 1 ½ to 2 hours. (They don’t need to double in size.) At this point, the shaped toppings may have spread slightly, opening a bit more into the indented shapes.

9. Heat oven to 375 degrees. Bake conchas until golden brown and even more puffed, about 20 to 22 minutes. (If all three sheet pans don’t fit in the oven at once, simply bake third batch after you’ve baked the first two.) Remove from oven.

10. Let rest for a few minutes before serving. Conchas are best the day they are baked, but can be stored in an airtight container for up to 4 days.

Note: Bread flour will yield buns with a more defined and slightly taller round shape, a more doughy and chewy texture, and a slightly less sweet taste. Each of the three toppings yields enough to cover full recipe of 15 conchas, but if you would like to try multiple flavor profiles, simply divide each topping by two or three. Due to the smaller amount, you’ll need to blend the ingredients using a hand mixer, or simply in a bowl with a spatula.